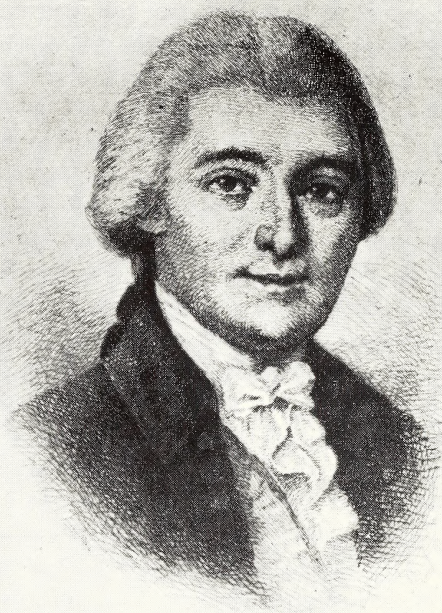


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WILLIAM BLOUNT.
Signer of the Constitution of the U.S.

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Publication
of the
STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

**THE JOHN GRAY BLOUNT
PAPERS**

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THE JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS

Edited by

ALICE BARNWELL KEITH

Volume Two
1790-1795

Raleigh
State Department of Archives and History
1959

STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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CONTENTS

Preface	vii
List of Illustrations and Maps	ix
Introduction	xi
Chronological List of the John Gray Blount Papers	
Included in this Volume	xiii
The John Gray Blount Papers	
Letters for 1790	1
Letters for 1791-1792	163
Letters for 1793	224
Letters for 1794	341
Letters for 1795	472
Other Papers for 1790-1795	637
Index	665

PREFACE

This volume is largely the selection of letters and papers taken from the John Gray Blount Papers from 1790-1795, inclusive, in The North Carolina State Department of Archives and History. Not all of the papers in this collection for these years are included; but an attempt has been made to publish all which have historical significance and which have not been made available to readers through previous publication. Desirable as it undoubtedly would be to have all the letters in a single series, the enormity of the collection would make the cost prohibitive.

Alice B. Keith

Raleigh, N. C.

July 1, 1959

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	<i>Page</i>
William Blount.....	Frontispiece
Blount Mansion.....	6
Home of Josiah Collins, Sr.....	70
A Sketch of the Tennessee Tributaries of the Mississippi River.....	102
Somerset Place.....	166
Chisholm Tavern	198
Home of John Gray Blount.....	294
Kerr Map of North Carolina.....	454

INTRODUCTION

The John Gray Blount Papers, I, published by the State Department of Archives and History of North Carolina covered manuscripts selected from the John Gray Blount Papers in the Archives from 1764-1789, inclusively. The present volume follows successively from the beginning of 1790 through 1795.

The material of Volume II has many of the characteristics of Volume I. It is composed largely of letters to John Gray Blount, John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, and a number of copies or duplicates written by William Blount to some business or political acquaintance. The content of the letters deal extensively with the subjects of politics, shipping and trade, and land speculation. The last-mentioned material comes in for a greater share of the correspondence because of a signal increase of activity in this area. The Tennessee lands still held interest, but were a bit overshadowed by the extensive speculations in North Carolina lands in which John Gray Blount held a pivotal position. This correspondence about speculation becomes engaging when the speculators began to include such national figures as Robert Morris and Judge James Wilson. The outbreak of the European wars, associated with the French Revolution, accelerated trade and shipping. The Blounts bought more vessels and traded more with foreign countries. This increased the necessity for more commercial correspondence.

Editorial work of this volume follows the pattern used for volume one. Captions have been written arbitrarily, but care has been taken to keep within the intent and meaning of the writer. Original spelling and punctuation have been closely adhered to in letters and papers. Originals, unless otherwise stated, are located in the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History.

The editor is indebted to a number of people for assistance and encouragement in the preparation of this volume. Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Director of the Department of Archives and History, has given direction and encouragement for the work from the beginning. Mr. D. L. Corbitt, Head of the Division of Publications, whose patience, advice and assistance has never

flagged, has borne the brunt of supervision and given thrust to the preparation, and direction to the publication. Members of the staff of the Department of Archives, especially Mrs. Julia C. Meconnahey and Mrs. Mary J. Rogers, have given services in making the materials in the Archives available. Dr. Carolyn Andrews Wallace (Mrs. Wesley) and Mr. William S. Powell of the Library of the University of North Carolina and Miss Hazel Baity, librarian of Meredith College, have given helpful assistance.

The editor is indebted to Mrs. Avery Churchill and a number of her students, including Miss Catherine Atkins, Mrs. Mary Jon Gerald Roach (Mrs. Linville), Miss Lois Pond, and Miss Paige Wood for assistance in typing the material.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

of the

JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS (1790 to 1796) INCLUDED
IN THIS VOLUME

LETTERS

LETTERS FOR 1790

1. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 5, 1790.
2. John Gray Blount to William Blount with Reply from William Blount, January [n.d.], 1790.
3. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 8, 1790.
4. John B. Ashe to John Gray Blount, January 12, 1790.
5. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1790.
6. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 14, 1790.
7. William Steele to John Gray Blount, January 15, 1790.
8. John Cowper to John Gray and Thomas Blount, January 16, 1790.
9. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1790.
10. Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount, January 30, 1790 with Insert from William Blount to John Gray Blount.
11. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, January 31, 1790.
12. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1790.
13. Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount with Postscript by [Abishai Thomas] February 6, 1790.
14. M. Mey to John Gray Blount, February 9, 1790.
15. Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount, February 11, 1790.
16. John Harvey to John Gray Blount, February 11, 1790.
17. William McKenzie to John Gray Blount, February 12, 1790.
18. Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, February 13, 1790.
19. John Gray Blount to George Nicolson, February 14, 1790.
20. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1790.
21. James Glasgow to John Gray Blount, February 22, 1790.
22. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 24, 1790.
23. George Nicolson to Thomas Blount, February 25, 1790.
24. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1790.
25. William McDaniel to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1790.
26. Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1790.
27. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1790.
28. A. Tatom to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1790.
29. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1790.
30. John Stewart to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1790.
31. George Nicolson to Thomas Blount, March 22, 1790.

32. Benjamin Russel to John Gray Blount, March 23, 1790.
33. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1790.
34. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1790.
35. Thomas Stewart to John Gray Blount, March 30, 1790.
36. Thomas W. Pearson to John Gray Blount, April 1, 1790.
37. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, April 4, 1790.
38. James Jasper to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1790.
39. Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount, April 9, 1790.
40. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 16, 1790.
41. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 17, 1790.
42. Hugh Houston to John Gray Blount, April 19, 1790.
43. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, April 22, 1790.
44. Henry Ross to John Gray Blount, April 23, 1790.
45. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 25, 1790.
46. Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, April 27, 1790.
47. Abbridgton Harvey to John Gray Blount, May 2, 1790.
48. William Robinson to John Gray Blount, May 3, 1790.
49. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1790.
50. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, May 12, 1790.
51. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, May 17, 1790.
52. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1790.
53. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1790.
54. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1790.
55. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 30, 1790.
56. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, June 1, 1790.
57. Daniel Tyson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, June 4, 1790.
58. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 7, 1790.
59. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 15, 1790.
60. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 16, 1790.
61. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1790.
62. Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1790.
63. John Gray Blount to [Edward Forbes], June 29, 1790.
64. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 5, 1790.
65. John Steele to John Gray Blount, July 10, 1790.
66. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 10, 1790.
67. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1790.
68. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1790.
69. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 14, 1790.
70. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1790.
71. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, July 15, 1790.
72. James Barr to John Gray Blount, July 16, 1790.
73. John Evans to Colonel Gorham, July 26, 1790.
74. Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount, July 26, 1790.
75. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 29, 1790.
76. William Blount to Wilson Blount (copy), July 30, 1790.
77. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, July 31, 1790.
78. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1790.
79. John Steele to William Blount, August 10, 1790.

80. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 13, 1790.
81. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 15, 1790.
82. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 22, 1790.
83. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, August 26, 1790.
84. William Murdock to John Gray & Thomas Blount, August 27, 1790.
85. Edward Jones to William Blount, August 28, 1790.
86. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1790.
87. Benjamin Sheppard to John Gray Blount, September 4, 1790.
88. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1790.
89. Jack Wallace to John Gray Blount, September 6, 1790.
90. Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount, (triplicate), September 6, 1790 with an addenda of October 19, 1790.
91. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, September 17, 1790.
92. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 19, 1790 with Letters from William Blount attached.
93. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 20, 1790.
94. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 22, 1790.
95. John Alderson to John Gray Blount, September 23, 1790.
96. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 24, 1790.
97. John Evans to John Gray Blount, September 25, 1790.
98. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, September 28, 1790.
99. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, October 18, 1790.
100. William Blount to John Gray Blount, October 20, 1790.
101. John Gray Blount to William Blount, October 26, 1790.
102. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, October 29, 1790.
103. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 1, 1790.
104. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, November 1, 1790.
105. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 7, 1790.
106. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, November 8, 1790.
107. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 9, 1790.
108. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 10, 1790.
109. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 16, 1790.
110. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1790.
111. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1790.
112. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, November 19, 1790.
113. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, November 23, 1790.
114. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 23, 1790.
115. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 27, 1790.
116. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 27, 1790.
117. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 1, 1790.
118. William R. Davie to John Gray Blount [n.d.], 1790.
119. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 9, 1790.
120. Ezekiel Cossa to John Gray Blount, December 13, 1790.
121. William Nutt for Henry Toomer to John Gray Blount, December 15, 1790.
122. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 18, 1790.

123. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, December 19, 1790.
124. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 20, 1790.
125. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, December 24, 1790.
126. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 25, 1790.
127. John Smith to John Gray Blount, December 27, 1790.
128. Thomas Wynne to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1790.
129. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1790.
130. John West to John Gray Blount, December [n.d.], 1790.
131. Edward Hall to John Gray Blount [n.d.].
132. James Glasgow to John Gray Blount [n.d.].

LETTERS FOR 1791-1792

1. William Blount to Alexander Martin, January 22, 1791.
2. William Groves to John Gray Blount, January [n.d.], 1791.
3. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, January 31, 1791.
4. John Baptista Ashe to Reading Blount, February 10, 1791.
5. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, March 1, 1791.
6. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, March 16, 1791.
7. John Willis to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1791.
8. Thomas Blount to [Samuel Simpson], April 17, 1791.
9. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 23, 1791.
10. Peter Mallet to John Gray Blount, June 13, 1791.
11. William Blount to Charles Pinckney, July 8, 1791.
12. Peter Mallet to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1791.
13. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, July 25, 1791.
14. Rufus G. Amory to John Gray Blount, November 16, 1791.
15. James Cole Mountfloreance to William Blount, November 17, 1791.
16. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 22, 1791.
17. Thomas Russell to John Gray & Thomas Blount, December 28, 1791.
18. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 29, 1791.
19. James Cole Mountfloreance to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1792.
20. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 5, 1792.
21. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, February 12, 1792.
22. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 16, 1792.
23. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1792.
24. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, February 27, 1792.
25. John McKim to John Gray Blount, March 4, 1792.
26. John Smith to John Gray Blount, March 8, 1792.
27. Oliver Smith to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1792.
28. Grover Wright to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1792.
29. James Cole Mountfloreance to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1792.
30. Thomas Russell to Hugh Williamson, March 15, 1792.
31. John Smith to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1792.
32. Dominick Terry & Company to John Gray Blount, March 19, 1792.

33. Stuart and Barr to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1792.
34. James Webster to John Gray Blount, March 31, 1792.
35. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, April 7, 1792.
36. William Blount to Hugh Williamson (Extract of Letter), April 14, 1792.
37. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, April 16, 1792.
38. Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, April 29, 1792.
39. William Kennedy to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1792.
40. John Teasdale to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1792.
41. Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 8, 1792.
With an Enclosure from Joseph Barnes, May 7, 1792.
42. H. B. Way to John Gray Blount, May 17, 1792.
43. Grover Wright to John Gray Blount, June 4, 1792.
44. Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, June 13, 1792.
45. Stuart and Barr to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1792.
46. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, July 17, 1792.
47. Edward Forbes to James Cole Mountflorece, July 23, 1792.
48. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, August 15, 1792.
49. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, August 20, 1792.
50. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, September 22, 1792.
51. William Blount to Alexander Martin, October 2, 1792.
52. William Smith to John Gray Blount, October 13, 1792.
53. Murdock MacLean to John Gray Blount, October 25, 1792.
54. Peter Schermerhorn to John Gray & Thomas Blount, October 29, 1792.
55. Travers & Co. to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1792.
56. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, November 11, 1792.
57. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, November 25, 1792.
58. Joseph Ross to John Gray Blount, November 26, 1792.
59. Dominick Terry & Co. to John Gray Blount, December 4, 1792.
60. Travers & Co. to John Gray Blount, December 7, 1792.
61. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 12, 1792.
62. Dominick Terry & Co. to John Gray Blount, December 26, 1792.

LETTERS FOR 1793

1. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, January 5, 1793.
2. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1793.
3. Richard Lake to John Gray Blount, January 12, 1793.
4. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 16, 1793.
5. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 20, 1793.
6. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, January 23, 1793.
7. Dominick Terry & Comp. to [John Gray Blount] January 24, 1793.
8. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 26, 1793.
9. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 27, 1793.
10. John Smith to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1793.
11. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, January 30, 1793.
12. John Smith to John Gray Blount, February 3, 1793.
13. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 4, 1793.

14. James Buchanan to John Gray Blount, February 4, 1793.
15. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 9, 1793.
16. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, February 19, 1793.
17. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1793.
18. Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, February 27, 1793.
19. James Webster to John Gray Blount, February [n.d.], 1793.
20. Dominick Terry & Company to John Gray Blount, March 1, 1793.
21. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1793.
22. Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March 9, 1793.
23. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1793.
24. Edward Bryan to John Gray Blount, March 16, 1793.
25. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 19, 1793.
26. Zedekiah Stone to John Gray Blount, March 24, 1793.
27. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, March 25, 1793.
28. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 30, 1793.
29. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, April 4, 1793.
30. John Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 6, 1793.
31. Beloix Frers & Company to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1793.
32. Ira Hollowell to John Gray Blount, April 17, 1793.
33. Stephen DeLancy to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1793.
34. Pete Farrell to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1793.
35. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, May 1, 1793.
36. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, May 4, 1793.
37. William Bell to John Gray Blount, May 4, 1793.
38. John Kennedy, Junior, to John Gray Blount, May 6, 1793.
39. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 10, 1793.
40. Dominick Terry & Company to John Gray Blount, May 10, 1793.
41. Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 10, 1793.
42. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 10, 1793.
43. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 14, 1793.
44. Peter Schermerhorn to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 16, 1793.
45. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, May 18, 1793.
46. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, June 2, 1793.
47. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, June 11, 1793.
48. Watson Stott & Company to John Gray Blount, June 11, 1793.
49. Hall & Gerrard to John Gray Blount, June 11, 1793.
50. William Blount to John Sevier (copy), June 17, 1793.
51. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, June 22, 1793.
52. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, June 22, 1793.
53. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, June 24, 1793.
54. John Smith to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1793.
55. James Barr to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1793.
56. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 30, 1793.
57. John Smith to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1793.
58. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 5, 1793.
59. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1793.

60. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 10, 1793.
61. James Barr for Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, July 10, 1793.
62. John Whedon to John Gray Blount, July 11, 1793.
63. Josiah Jones to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1793.
64. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, July 16, 1793.
65. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, July 17, 1793.
66. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, July 20, 1793.
67. Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, July 23, 1793.
68. Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 25, 1793.
69. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 31, 1793.
70. Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount, August 2, 1793.
71. Cox Coart to John Gray Blount, August 2, 1793.
72. Ezekiel Cossa to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1793.
73. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 14, 1793.
74. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, August 14, 1793.
75. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, August 15, 1793.
76. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, August 16, 1793.
77. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 20, 1793.
78. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 23, 1793.
79. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, August 24, 1793.
80. Blake Baker to John Gray Blount, August 26, 1793.
81. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, September 4, 1793.
82. James Barr to John Gray Blount, September 12, 1793.
83. Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 14, 1793.
84. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, September 14, 1793.
85. Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 16, 1793.
86. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 18, 1793.
87. William Blount to Joseph Martin (copy), September 18, 1793.
Enclosed in a Letter from William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 19, 1793.
88. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 19, 1793.
89. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount [n.d.].
90. Benjamin Smith to John Gray Blount, September 24, 1793.
91. Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 27, 1793.
92. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, October 1, 1793.
93. William Pennock to John Gray Blount, October 6, 1793.
94. Dominick Terry to John Gray Blount, October 8, 1793.
95. Richard Kay to John Gray Blount, October 12, 1793.
96. William Rhodes, Junior, to John Gray Blount, October 15, 1793.
97. Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1793.
98. William Blount to John Gray Blount, October 22, 1793.
99. John Smith to John Gray Blount, October 31, 1793, with Postscript by William Williams.
100. William & James Douglas to John Smith (copy), October 31, 1793.
101. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1793.
102. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, November 10, 1793.

103. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1793.
104. Josiah Adams & Company to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 22, 1793.
105. Loomis & Tillinghast to John Gray Blount, November 26, 1793.
106. James Barr to John Gray Blount, November 30, 1793.
107. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 3, 1793.
108. Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, December 6, 1793.
109. John Kennedy, Junior, to John Gray Blount, December 20, 1793.
110. James Cole Mountflorencence to Thomas Blount, December 23, 1793.
111. [John Gray Blount] to John Kennedy, Junior, (copy), December 25, 1793.

LETTERS FOR 1794

1. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, January 4, 1794.
2. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 11, 1794.
3. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 16, 1794.
4. William Polk to John Gray Blount, January 18, 1794.
5. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 21, 1794, with a copy of William Blount to John Smith, January 20, 1794.
6. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 23, 1794.
7. Blake Baker to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1794.
8. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, February 1, 1794.
9. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 6, 1794.
10. John Hall to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1794.
11. William Blount to Thomas Hart, February 9, 1794.
12. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 13, 1794.
13. Jonathan Price to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1794.
14. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 20, 1794.
15. Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, February 21, 1794.
16. Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1794.
17. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, February 25, 1794.
18. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 27, 1794.
19. Stockley Donelson to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1794.
20. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1794.
21. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 13, 1794.
22. David Allison to John Gray Blount, March 13, 1794.
23. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1794.
24. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1794.
25. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1794.
26. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1794.
27. David Allison to John Gray Blount, March [n. d.], 1794.
28. David Allison to John Gray Blount, April 13, 1794.
29. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 3, 1794.
30. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 25, 1794.
31. David Allison to John Gray Blount, May 1, 1794.
32. David Allison to John Gray Blount, May 9, 1794.
33. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 16, 1794.
34. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May 20, 1794.

35. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1794.
36. John Armistead to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1794.
37. William Blount to John Gray Blount, May 26, 1794.
38. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1794.
39. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1794.
40. David Allison to John Gray Blount, May 29, 1794.
41. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 30, 1794.
42. John Hall to John Gray Blount, June 5, 1794.
43. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, June 6, 1794.
44. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 6, 1794.
45. John Gray & Thomas Blount to Thomas & John Ketland (copy), June 10, 1794.
46. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 11, 1794.
47. Anne Harvey to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1794.
48. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, June 17, 1794.
49. William Brickell to John Gray Blount, June 24, 1794.
50. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 25, 1794.
51. John Hall to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1794.
52. David Allison to John Gray Blount, June 29, 1794.
53. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 1, 1794.
54. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 2, 1794.
55. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 3, 1794.
56. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 18, 1794.
57. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 20, 1794.
58. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 24, 1794.
59. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, July 28, 1794.
60. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 29, 1794.
61. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 29, 1794.
62. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, August 4, 1794.
63. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, August 8, 1794.
64. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 12, 1794.
65. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, August 26, 1794.
66. David Allison to John Gray Blount, August 27, 1794.
67. David Allison to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1794.
68. John Hall to John Gray Blount, September 9, 1794.
69. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, September 9, 1794.
70. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 13, 1794.
71. John Hall to John Gray Blount, September 14, 1794.
72. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, September 16, 1794.
73. David Allison to John Gray Blount, September 18, 1794.
74. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 21, 1794.
75. David Allison to John Gray Blount, September 25, 1794.
76. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, October 1, 1794.
77. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, October 1, 1794.
78. David Allison to John Gray Blount, October 2, 1794.
79. David Allison to John Gray Blount, October 23, 1794.
80. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount with a Postscript by [William Blount], October 25, 1794.

81. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, October 26, 1794.
82. William Blount to John Gray Blount, October 26, 1794.
83. John Smith to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1794.
84. David Allison to John Gray Blount, November 5, 1794.
85. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 5, 1794.
86. William Charles Lake to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1794.
87. John Smith to John Gray Blount, November 8, 1794.
88. John Allen to John Gray Blount, November 9, 1794.
89. William Blount to Thomas Hart, November 18, 1794.
90. David Allison to John Gray Blount, November 20, 1794.
91. David Allison to John Gray Blount, November 27, 1794.
92. William Charles Lake to John Gray Blount, December 11, 1794.
93. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 11, 1794.
94. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 12, 1794.
95. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 21, 1794.
96. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 26, 1794.

LETTERS FOR 1795

1. John Gray Blount to Thomas Hart, January 6, 1795.
2. David Allison to John Gray Blount, January 9, 1795.
3. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, January 17, 1795.
4. George Orr to John Gray Blount, January 20, 1795.
5. David Allison to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1795.
6. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1795.
7. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1795.
8. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, with Postscript January 30, 1795.
9. James Carraway to John Gray Blount, February 4, 1795.
10. William Blount to Nicholas Romayne, Copy for John Gray Blount, February 5, 1795.
11. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 6, 1795.
12. Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount or Richard Blackledge, February 11, 1795.
13. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, February 17, 1795.
14. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, February 17, 1795.
15. David Allison to John Gray Blount, February 18, 1795.
16. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 18, 1795.
17. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 19, 1795.
18. David Allison to John Gray Blount, February 20, 1795.
19. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1795.
20. George Finch, Hatton and Morgan to John Gray Blount, with a Postscript by John Gray Blount, February 24, 1795.
21. John Strother to John Gray Blount, February 24, 1795.
22. Gabriel Ragsdale to William Blount, with a Postscript from William Blount to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1795.
23. John Strother to John Gray Blount, March 1, 1795.
24. Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1795.

25. William Falkener to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1795.
26. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 5, 1795.
27. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March 6, 1795.
28. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1795.
29. William R. Davie to John Gray Blount, March 9, 1795.
30. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1795.
31. David Allison to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1795.
32. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, March 17, 1795.
33. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1795.
34. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 28, 1795.
35. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1795.
36. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1795.
37. David Allison to John Gray Blount, April 3, 1795.
38. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 10, 1795.
39. Potts and Gibbs to John Gray Blount, April 11, 1795.
40. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1795.
41. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 16, 1795.
42. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 20, 1795.
43. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 20, 1795.
44. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1795.
45. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, April 26, 1795.
46. Samuel Spruill to John Gray Blount, April 27, 1795.
47. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1795.
48. Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1795.
49. Ben Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 6, 1795.
50. Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount, May 6, 1795.
51. John Hudson to John Gray Blount, May 9, 1795.
52. J. J. Jackson for John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, May 13, 1795.
53. David Allison to John Gray Blount, May 14, 1795.
54. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, May 14, 1795.
55. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 15, 1795.
56. William Gorham to John Gray Blount, May 16, 1795.
57. Henry Selby to John Gray Blount, May 16, 1795.
58. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, May 17, 1795.
59. Josiah Collins, Jr., to John Gray Blount, May 19, 1795.
60. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1795.
61. Jⁿ. B^{te}. Dewaux to John Gray Blount, May 27, 1795.
62. Richard Lake to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1795.
63. David Allison to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1795.
64. Blake Baker to John Gray Blount, June 19, 1795.
65. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, June 25, 1795.
66. David Allison to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1795.
67. John Porterfield to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1795.
68. William Kennedy to John Gray Blount, June 29, 1795.
69. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, July 1, 1795.
70. Eben Love to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1795.

71. Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1795.
72. Hamilton & Wilkinson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 7, 1795.
73. Thomas Smith to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1795.
74. Jacob Rhodes to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1795.
75. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1795.
76. Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount, July 16, 1795.
77. David Allison to John Gray Blount, July 17, 1795.
78. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, July 19, 1795.
79. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, July 22, 1795.
80. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, July 22, 1795.
81. William Rhodes, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 24, 1795.
82. William Gorham to John Gray Blount, July 27, 1795.
83. William Rhodes, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 29, 1795.
84. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 31, 1795.
85. Ballentine Fairlie & Co. to John Gray Blount, August 4, 1795.
86. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, August 7, 1795.
87. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, August 18, 1795.
88. William Rhodes to John Gray Blount, August 27, 1795.
89. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, September 2, 1795.
90. J. W. G. Prescott to John Gray Blount, September 3, 1795.
91. William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 4, 1795.
92. J. F. Grimké to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1795.
93. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, September 7, 1795.
94. Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, September 8, 1795.
95. Robert Lanier to John Gray Blount, September 12, 1795.
96. Richard Lake to John Gray and Thomas Blount, September 13, 1795.
97. William Blount to John Gray Blount, with a Postscript by Thomas Blount, September 16, 1795.
98. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, September 22, 1795.
99. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 22, 1795.
100. Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount, September 27, 1795.
101. John Summerville & Co. to John Gray Blount, September 30, 1795.
102. David Allison to John Gray Blount, October 1, 1795.
103. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, October 11, 1795.
104. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1795.
105. David Allison to John Gray Blount, October 23, 1795.
106. John Hall to John Gray Blount, October 24, 1795.
107. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, October 30, 1795.
108. William Falkener to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1795.
109. J. W. G. Prescott to Amos Johnston, November 10, 1795.
110. David Allison to John Gray Blount, November 12, 1795.
111. David Allison to John Gray Blount, November 24, 1795.
112. William Armistead to John Wallace, November 25, 1795.

113. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, November 30, 1795.
114. John Mitchell to John Gray Blount, December 3, 1795.
115. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, December 7, 1795.
116. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 11, 1795.
117. David Allison to John Gray Blount, December 18, 1795.
118. Thomas Blount to Tench Coxe (copy), December 18, 1795.
119. Tench Coxe to Thomas Blount, December 19, 1795.
120. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, December 20, 1795.
121. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, December 20, 1795.
122. J. W. G. Prescott to John Gray Blount, December 21, 1795.
123. John Willis to John Gray Blount, December 22, 1795.
124. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, December 22, 1795.
125. Thomas Smith to John Gray Blount, December 22, 1795.
126. Hamilton & Wilkinson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, December 23, 1795.
127. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, December 23, 1795.
128. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 24, 1795.
129. Peter Casso to John Gray Blount, December 24, 1795.
130. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, December 25, 1795.
131. John Strother to John Gray Blount, December 28, 1795.
132. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1795.
133. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1795.
134. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, December [n.d.], 1795.

PAPERS, 1790-1795

1. Receipt for State Tobacco Stored with John Gray Blount, March 4, 1790.
2. Deposition of George Ogg, November 29, 1790.
3. Subpoena to Thomas Blount, May 21, 1792.
4. William Blount's account with the State with Extracts from the Treasury Books, September 28, 1792.
5. Message from Governor William Blount to the Frontier Inhabitants of North Carolina, October 2, 1792.
6. The Representation of John Gray Blount for William Blount, December 14, 1792.
7. Protest of Thomas Blount, January 1, 1793.
8. Protest of Thomas Blount with Reply of Eleven Members, January 1, 1793.
9. Protest of Thomas Blount, January 2, 1793.
10. Report of Committee on Elections: House of Commons, May 16, 1793.
11. Editorial on the Beaufort County Elections of 1793.
12. Excerpts from William Kennedy's Reply to the Editor's Report of the Beaufort County Election.
13. Thomas Jefferson to the Merchants of New Bern, August 27, 1793, with Resolves of the Merchants of New Bern, September 19, 1793.
14. The Memorial of Richard Dobbs Spaight to the Town of New Bern, December 27, 1793.

15. John Hall's Proposed Land Agreement, February 6, 1793.
16. Presentment of the Grand Jury of the Fayette District October Term, 1794.
17. Translation of Letter from Jⁿ. B^{te}. Dewaux to John Gray Blount, Baltimore, 27 May 1795.
18. Contract Between Gabriel Ragsdale and Others, June 20, 1795.
19. Petition of Gabriel Ragsdale, Agent of John Gray Blount, July 15, 1795.
20. "North Carolina Lands Entered for the Blounts and their Associates," July 2, 1795.
21. Richard Blackledge's Account with John Strother, September 11-27, 1795.
22. Petition of John Carson of Burke County.

THE BLOUNT PAPERS

LETTERS FOR 1790

Hugh Williamson¹ to John Gray Blount²

EDENTON 5th Jan^y 1790

Dear Sir

The Bond & Copy of an Oath for the Post Master that I left in your Hands were expected by the Post. I hope they will come by next Post that I may take them with me for I hope to Set out within 8 Days from this Date.³

I am informed here that M^r Ch Johnson does not offer in Person for Congress but offers M^r Cabarrus⁴ who in person has been soliciting Votes. It is zealously objected that my Wife⁵ continues to live with me in New York while I am detain'd there on public Business. The Interest of the State is to be greatly mended in Hands of a Gentleman who together with his Wife were born in a foreign Kingdom & who hardly speaks the Language of this Country. But we hear that M^r B Williams has promised M^r Cabarus great Interest in your District.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J. G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

¹For a sketch of Williamson see Alice B. Keith (ed.), *The John Gray Blount Papers* (Raleigh: The North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, 1952), I, 61n. 37. Hereinafter cited as: *The John Gray Blount Papers*.

²See William Masterson, *William Blount* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954); *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, xxi-xxiv.

³Williamson was planning to leave for New York. He was serving as claims agent for North Carolina while the Confederation was attempting to handle the problems of the Revolutionary War debts. The papers mentioned had to do with Blount's application for a contract to carry the mail. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 515.

⁴Stephen Cabarrus who represented Chowan County in the house of commons from 1788 to 1793 and for five terms in the early nineteenth century. R. D. W. Connor (ed.), *North Carolina Manual* (Raleigh: Uzzell, 1913), 557, 558.

⁵Williamson married Maria Apthorpe, daughter of Charles Ward Apthorpe, of New York in 1789. John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851* (New York: Frederick H. Hitchcock, Publishers, 2 volumes, 1925), II, 93.

*John Gray Blount to William Blount⁶
with Reply from William Blount*

January [n.d.] 1790

Augustus Harvey⁷ will I believe take the land called Maxwell's for his land at Wilmington⁸ provided you will let him have Cupid [a slave] to repair the house and find him nails and planks, shingles, and etc. which say equal to £100. As I wish him to determine on something immediately wish you to write me your determination on that head.

Yours t

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed to: William Blount Esquire
Favoured by Capt. Rhodes
Greenville

GREENVILLE Friday January 8th 1790

I wish as much as you for some immediate decision on or off with Gustus Harvey and as I am very desirous to have Grainger's affairs in my own hands I would agree to repairs to the amount of one hundred pounds and so you may agree on my part.
I am etc. etc.

WM. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed to: John Gray Blount, Esq.
Washington

Capt. Rhodes

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENEVILLE Friday Januy 8th 1790

It is my Opinion that the Cape Fear Plantation will command Money in a Short Time and it will be quite agreeable to

⁶See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages xviii-xxi.

⁷Augustus Harvey, the half brother of John Gray Blount's wife. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 147n. 106.

⁸The land at Wilmington (Maxwell's land) was in all probability a part of the heritage of William Blount's wife, Mary Grainger Blount.

me that if purchased that it should be for J. G. & T. Blount and such has ever been my Wish and Intention in the Purchase [.] if it would command even one thousand pounds I should suppose Maxwell's well sold and if it shou'd lay on hand as Property it will surely be a more growing one than any on Tar River for the Seat of Government will surely rest at Fayette and I cannot see any [2] Circumstance that can happen to bring the lands on Tar River to a good Market—If the Exchange does take place will it not be as well to rate the Lands low upon the Principle in Case of after Recoveries no more can be recovered than the Land sold for and in Case a Bargain does take place I have all the Papers here—I shall not ask of Gustus a Warrantee Deed only a Conveyance of his Right.—As I was on Horseback coming home he spoke to me to Know if I would agree to his having the over River Plantation I answered any property you and [3] he could agree on provided the Property was not valued over twelve hundred pounds was all the same to me. I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

John G. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

per Capt. Rhodes

John B. Ashe⁹ to John Gray Blount

———, [January 12, 1790]

Dear Sir—

I Am dispos'd to Send my Crop of Tobacco to N York, as the price here is too low, and Shou'd I be elect'd to Congress think it wou'd answer my laying out what little Money I have in that article, better than exchanging of it for coin—this be good enough to give me your oppinion on; and be please'd to inform me, if any Vessel will be going shortly from Washington that I cou'd [put] ten or twelve h^{ds}. in, on freight—I hope you are

⁹John B. Ashe was a son of Samuel Ashe, who became governor of North Carolina in 1795. John B. resided at Halifax. He had represented North Carolina in the Continental Congress, 1787-1788, and was elected to Congress in 1790. His wife was the former Elizabeth Montford, a daughter of Joseph Montford. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 199; R. D. W. Connor, *History of North Carolina* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), I, 150.

well With M^{rs}. Blount & family to whom present my, Comp^{ts}.
with M^{rs}. Ashe's, A. [Augustus] Harvey and Lady also—

And believe me with esteem

Y^{rs}. Obed^{tly}.

J. B. ASHE

Jan^y 12th. 1790

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

Jacob Blount¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

EDENTON Jan^y. 13th. 1790

Dear John,

I have this day received a Letter from M^r. Harvey who informs me that Lucy Harvey¹¹ was at Perquimans Court and Had Chosen her Brother Guardian and Laughton was to do the Business, she complained heavily of her Ill treatment, tell M^{rs}. Harvey that Augustus left this yesterday quite well

M^r. Cabarouses party are very busey a lectionering though I believe to but very little purpose though I hope the Doct^{rs}. [Hugh Williamson's] friends will not think themselves too secure and by that means suffer a man to be Elected that would be a disgrace to a rase of Vagabonds much more a body of Civilized people, when I was at Washington I forgot to get Baums Note have you got it, if you have send it by some safe hand. I am Yours &c

JACOB BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

¹⁰Jacob Blount was the youngest son of Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount. He was in business at Edenton with his father-in-law, Josiah Collins.

¹¹Lucy Harvey, who had been a ward of John Gray Blount, was the half sister of his wife, Mary Harvey Blount.

*Thomas Blount¹² to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 14th Jan^y. 1790

When I left Tarb^o. I expected the wedding¹³ would happen on this day, but find it is deferr'd till Monday next—of course I shall not be able to get away till Wednesday Morning—I found my old friend Spaight¹⁴ much better than I had hoped—his spirits are extremely good—I took my leave of him about half an hour ago when he required of me to present you with his best wishes—he says he will be back by the 20th May in good health & that he will invite all the [Blount] Brothers to partake of [2] a Turtle & some good Madeira which he intends to bring with him—Cap^t. Craddock lately arrived here from S^t. Eustia [Eustatius], which place he left on Christmas Eve, says he there saw a Cap^t. Smith in a small Schooner of yours that he sail'd about 8 days before he came away in search of a better Market [.] Corn was then there worth 6/. Peas 10/. P Bush. Cap^t. Tinker says you may have the rigging— Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

Mr. Simpson

*William Steele¹⁵ to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON Jan^y. 15th. 1790

Mr John G. Blount

Dear Sir

I have an order from Royal Flint Esquire to receive the Tobacco left in your hands¹⁶ by Daniel Carthy—You will oblige me exceedingly by informing me P Post the exact quantity of

¹²Thomas Blount was the fourth son of Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount. He was closely associated with his older brothers, William and John Gray. For a sketch of Thomas see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages xxv-xxvi.

¹³He is referring to the marriage of John Haywood to Sarah Leigh. She died in February 1791. Samuel A'Court Ashe (ed.), *Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present* (Greensboro: C. L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1904-1917), VI, 287; *The North Carolina Chronicle or Fayetteville Gazette*, February 21, 1791.

¹⁴Richard Dobbs Spaight. For sketch of Spaight see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 528n. 7.

¹⁵William Steele was probably the son of Ephrim Steele and first cousin to the better-known John Steele. See H. M. Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 2 volumes, 1924), I, page 9.

¹⁶The Blounts undoubtedly had large warehouses. There are many references to storage, particularly tobacco, at their place of business in Washington.

Tobacco and the prospect of selling it at Washington & its neighbourhood—As I am engaged in the purchase of State and continental paper—I would receive Securities of every description in payment—which I should suppose would facilitate the Sale—

Hoping to hear from you shortly I am

Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servant

WILLIAM STEELE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

John Cowper¹⁷ to John Gray and Thomas Blount

PORTSMOUTH Jan^y 16th. 1790

Mess^{rs}. Jn^o G & Th^o Blount
Gentlemen.

From an unexpected demand from Europe Indian Corn is like to take a Considerable rise here tho a fall Crop, and hearing that Article was low with you I have Thought it expedient to give you this Information, If you Incline to Make a Speculation¹⁸ I will be half Interested in the purchase of 4 or 5000 barrels If it can be had to Cost del^d here not more than 10/ this Money but If it does not exceed 6/ Virg^a. Curr^y with you the Spec^a. [speculation] will Still be better—The payments to be made in 8 Weeks from the receipt of the Corn in N^o Carolina 3 Months Will do better this Credit Effected we can go into the Speculation without an Advance of Cash. for here it Will Command I have no doubt 13/4 P barr^l. If not 15/ from this till the [2] first of May—The business here I will do free of Commisⁿ and you in the Purchase to Charge none. let me hear from you by return of post On the Subject, and If you give into the Specⁿ the moment you have effected your purchase apprise Me and at What period it can be del^d. here and Weather you Can Command Craft otherwise I can Charter and Send round

¹⁷ John Cowper was a merchant and shipper of Portsmouth, Virginia. See letters from him in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

¹⁸ John Gray Blount and George Nicolson, a member of the firm Pennock, Nicolson, and Skipwith of Richmond, Virginia, were also engaged in a speculation in corn.



Courtesy of the Blount Mansion Association

BLOUNT MANSION KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

The Mansion, "the first frame house west of the Alleghenies," has been restored in part. Work is being continued by the Blount Mansion Association. In the area back of the building a very lovely flower garden, historic in flowers and patterns, was planted. Governor Blount's office building was reconstructed and in the summer of 1958 the foundations of the old kitchen were dug out. While working on the kitchen, Mrs. Arthur Bruner, a leader in the work of the Association, discovered the location of the old cistern, the walls of which were fairly intact. The Association has recovered Blount relics where possible and when originals were not available, care has been exercised to provide period pieces of house furnishings throughout the buildings.

If you do not Incline to enter into this Specⁿ. do not Communicate the Contents of this. I will take of Smith for his Note Corn at 6/ or 6/6—let me hear from you I am

Gentlemen

your Ob^t Se^t

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: Messr. John G. & Thos. Blount
Merchants
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Thursday

28th Jan^y 1790

D^r Sir

I have considered your new Business with great deliberation but cannot give it my approbation¹⁹—If I am not mistaken in my conjecture Nicholson's object is to get as much of our property as he can into his hands & Credit us for it at the Current price & as an inducement for us to place in his hands as much as we can possibly command, he tells us the prices of Corn & Wheat will be very high & that he will be jointly concerned with us in the Speculation—Now Sir, if we suffer ourselves to be allured into a plan of this kind by his specious assurances of great profit, and it should happen either that he cannot or will not supply us with the Sum he has promised to enable us to comply with our Contracts here, a certain consequence will be the loss of our Credit which I consider too valuable to be entrusted to the care of any Man in his Situation [2] I will, however, in deference to your opinion, which I shall always respect proceed to-morrow Morning to Williamstown & try McKenrie; but I am well assured it will be a fruitless journey for the price you authorize me to give has already been given on the same Credit by Hill & others who are still purchasing all they can lay their hands on—should I hear of an opportunity of making Contracts to the extent you wish I will do so, but it will be with extreme reluctance. for it is impossible for me to divest myself of the fear I have already expressed—Nicholson is a man I cannot so greatly confide in—to pay him I am willing

¹⁹He has reference to the corn speculation mentioned on page 6*n*. 18, immediately above.

to sell every thing I possess but to give him the power of ruining us in his own way I cannot consent to—It will be sufficiently disagreeable to submit to a loss of property, but a total loss of Credit would be a thousand times more so—However [3] I can as well afford to lose both as you can, and if ruin is your object, Have at you—Baldwin will take in the 50 Bll^s Corn I have here & call on A. [Amos] Johnston²⁰ for more, but what the quantity or on what acco^t. I don't know—he will call in consequence of a message from Johnston by Maj^r. Gerrard²¹—a hh^d. or two of your Jamaica Rum may perhaps answer at the price mentioned & Sugar will always be acceptable—Your advice respecting Tob^o. & other articles shall be duly attended to—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

per Mr. Jones

*Benjamin Hawkins²² to William Blount
with an Insert from [William Blount] to [John Gray Blount]*

WARREN²³ 30th Jan^y. at night

My dear friend!

As Mr. Falkener²⁴ is on his way to New, Berne and it is more than probable he will call and pay his respects at your house, I am set a scribbling

²⁰Amos Johnston. He was the son of Jacob Johnston and was an active merchant at Town Creek, North Carolina. He was one of the Blounts' best customers and was associated with them in numerous business deals.

²¹Charles Gerrard was born in Beaufort County and was closely identified with the Blounts in many different capacities. He sometimes managed the store at Tarborough when Thomas Blount was in Congress, and at other times he made various deals for them including land purchases, collection of debts, or collection of cargoes when they were loading a vessel. He went into the mercantile business at Tarborough with Edward Hall. At his death he bequeathed extensive lands to charity. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, for letters from Gerrard. His obituary occurs in the *Norib Carolina Journal*, October 16, 1797.

²²For a sketch of Hawkins see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 32n. 2.

²³Warren County in the extreme northern part of North Carolina—lying along the border of Virginia. Warren had at least two noted sons—Benjamin Hawkins and Nathaniel Macon of later prominence.

²⁴William Falkener was of English origin. He is said to have come to this country around 1780. He established first an academy for boys. John Gray Blount sent his son, Thomas H. Blount to the Warrenton school. William Falkener to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1795, John Gray Blount Papers (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh). Falkener later (1802) established a seminary for young women in the same community. According to Lizzie Wilson Montgomery: "He might be called the Founder of Seminaries for the education of young ladies in this section of the country." *Sketches of Old Warrenton* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1924), 129, 131, 132, 170. He was spoken of as a cultivated person and noted for his beautiful penmanship. Nevertheless, he was later charged with being a British spy. G. J. McRee, *Life and Correspondence of James Iredell* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 2 volumes, 1857), II, 242.

This day I have written—letters to Doct^r. [Hugh] Williamson, Doct^r. [Nicholas] Romaine, M^{rs}. Romaine and M^r. Gadoqui,²⁵ and from the latter I give you this extract “I have seen a young man lately from Cumberland who informed me that our western settlements were much disposed to cultivate a friendly understanding with the Spanish settlements on the Mississippi, that governor Mero²⁶ had sent a letter to the civil and Military officers there, consenting to a friendly interchange of good offices, My informant was not very intelligant.—If you and the U. S. should be able to come to any amicable adjustment of our respective claims in that quarter I have some thoughts of going there for a time, and I do assure you I should take great pleasure [2] in being any way instrumental in cementing a sincere and lasting amity between our citizens and the subjects of your Sovereign.—We shall be neighbours for a long distance on that river, and if we are not friends. it will be from mistaken policy in seting out rong and time only can determine who will be to blaim.”

I have been from home but once to Warrenton and to Montforts since I returned, I have not had any letter from the North, letters rec^d. at Petersb^r informs that the King of G. Britain was on the 14th of Nov^r. from an indisposition called the breaking up of his constitution, (do you know what that is?) in a state of lunacy, and it was expected that the Prince of Wales would be appointed Regent.²⁷ We have had five days successively of rain and the breaking up seems to be a violent hail storm.

adieu

Remember the information you and your brother were to get me of the broken Merchants. [3]

3rd. of Feb^y.

I this day wrote a letter to Miss Marshall²⁸ and a long One to de La Forest,²⁹ On the Mississippi and for the name of his Son.—[This insert is in William Blount's handwriting.]

²⁵Diego de Gardoqui. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 252n. 25.

²⁶Don Estevan Mero, governor of Orleans. It was for him that Mero District was named. Clarence Edwin Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936), IV, 45n. 2.

²⁷This was one of several mental lapses of George III prior to his state of total insanity in 1810.

²⁸Miss Marshall, who seems to have been a friend of Hawkins and William Blount, has not been further identified. It is possible that she was related to Judge John Marshall.

²⁹Sieur de la Forest was the resident French Consul General at New York. He was a good friend of William Blount as well as of Hawkins.

This Son of the french Consul is to be called Blount Hawkins D^e La Forest and we are to give him 500 Acres. of Land each on the Mississippi. He is a Natural Son and is actually intended for that Country—

The Information alluded to respecting the *broken Merchants* is that which is requested of [Nathan] Keais.³⁰ do see and get and forward it. It will confer a greater Obligation than perhaps you suppose [to] who I think is of all Men most dispose to serve our Family. It is the Amount of the Imports since the peace distinguishing whether imported by people who were Citizens & Residents at the time of the peace from those who have become Residents since [4] the Object is to show that the bad payments by N^cCarolina is not to be imputed to the People who were of the State at the Time of the peace but to the Adventurers who have since arrived or sent their Factors here—Pray get Keys [Keais] to do this.—

Addressed: Colonel William Blount
Greeneville

Favored by Mr. Falkener

John Sitgreaves³¹ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 31 Jan^y. 1790

D^r Sir

I expected when you wrote me some time ago about the Bond to be drawn for the Bonners that they were to execute it here at last Super^r. Court & have the Matter finally Settled then —& did not know the contrary until I saw H Bonner at Washington Court I then declined it until you came home as you was Expected during Court—Your Letter to day come so late I was not able to prepare it & send it by this post but will by the next, I wish you to give me what information is necessary about it as I have mislaid your first Letter & do not recollect the particulars of it—Mullony treats me ill if he says any thing to my prejudice, for I did nothing in the Business but barely draw the

³⁰Nathan Keais who was collector of the customs at Port Bath. There are many references to him in these letters. He seems to have been very friendly towards the Blounts. See copy of a letter to N. Keais in the Bath Customs Report, 1786-1790 (The North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh).

³¹John Sitgreaves of New Bern was a prominent lawyer in the State and often transacted business for the Blounts. See further comments on him on page 158*n*. 222, below.

Assignment, it was begun & ended by himself & Titus [Ogden] without any advice promise or interference on my part & I Know not exactly what Titus promised him but understood if any thing was got of Howell it was to be placed to the Credit [2] of Mulloyny—to oblige Titus I assisted in trying the Cause—while I am speaking of it I wish you wou'd direct such an Exon [*exoneretur*] vs Howell as you think best that is a fi fa [*fieri facias*] to Edgecomb if he has any property, if not a Ca Sa [*capias ad satisfaciendum*] to Beaufort vs his Body, that we may proceed against his Bail—

I shall endeavour to assist the Doctor's [Hugh Williamson] Election as I have uniformly been doing since I knew he offered & shall I dare say secure all the votes of this County for him, that are given at all but I fear the people in this & the other Counties will be too languid on the occasion—

My Comp^s. to M^{rs}. Blount

I am D^r Sir

Yours

JN^o SITGREAVES

J G Blount Esq^r

let me hear from you next week

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount

———, [February 7, 1790]

D^r Sir

I wrote you last Sunday but Cou'd not find Ben Blackledge to send the Letter by & gave it to Simpson who I expected wou'd have gone on Monday following—the foregoing is the form of the Bond it will be necessary for the parties to enter into, a description of the Land in dispute, had best be inserted so as to leave no room for cavilling afterwards—You or H S Bonner have all the Papers relative to the Claim of the Latter & I suppose you can make a good State of the Case, if not we can do it at your next Court, & that I suppose will be time Enough—

But 71 Voters at our Election the weather was very unfavorable Most of them were Town Voters & the Mason's Interests were all in favor of Cabarrus³² (Neale³³ Excepted) Guion³⁴ & Ben Williams³⁵ were quite active—the Doctor [Guion] had a Majority of but four,

In my Letter by Simpson I have written you relative to Mullowny's affair with Ogden—.

My Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount

Yours &c

JN^o SITGREAVES

7^t Feb^y 1790

J G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

By Ben Blackledge

*Benjamin Hawkins to [William Blount]
with a Postscript by [Abishai Thomas, sic]**

NEW YORK, February 8, 1790

My dear friend!

I have been in hopes for some days past that I should be able to send you some information respecting the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, But it is this day for the first time to be taken up in the house of representatives, and the members have observed great silence—so that even a probable opinion cannot be now formed. I shall send you the U. S. gazett with a note twice a week hence forward.

All your friends have enquired after you with a degree of affection which is effecting to me, Miss Marshall is well, she says you did not answer her letter, which discouraged her from writing to any other of her Carolina friends in answer to this letter—so that I have been injured by your neglect, all of

³²Stephen Cabarrus. See sketch on page 1n. 4, above.

³³Abner Neale, the brother-in-law of John Gray Blount.

³⁴Dr. Isaac Guion who served as surgeon to the First Regiment (North Carolina) during the American Revolutionary War. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 72.

³⁵This Benjamin Williams was a local politician and is not to be confused with the Benjamin Williams of Moore County who was made governor of the State (North Carolina) in 1799. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 191n. 6.

*These captions have been supplied by the editor and are based upon content of the letters and the handwriting.

[2] this amiable family are in this house in queen street, Mr. & Mrs. [Nicholas] Romaine are well and their little babe capable of prattling a little. Mr. Van. Burcks and his daughter are living in the house formerly the property of Doct^r. McKnight. up the North River I have been twice there to see them—it has been conjectured by some near friend that Mr. Otto³⁶ was making love there, and it is also believed, that his discontinuing his visits has given umbrage some where. He is by report to be married to Miss. Creavaceur daughter of Mr. St. John.³⁷—Mr. de la Forest³⁸ is well he has one little daughter he often asks after you, can you Send forward a deed for the 1,000 acres of land to his Son. Blount Hawkins de la Forest dulcet [dulcet, sic].

You will see by the price Curr^t. the high price of wheat, Corn will consequently be very high, as every bushel of the former will be shipped from the middle States—Have you not a great quantity on Tar river? I know [3] some orders are given here for purchasing a quantity, probably on Roanoke, or your river [Pamlico], on speculation.—We have laid before the Senate the Act of Cession of our State, it is committed, and this day we are to meet the Committee to give some information respecting it, do I pray you write to me freely and confidentially on any of your prospects, I have had an occasion to name you once or twice in a manner as you deserve.—We shall be embarrassed with the Indian business, and Shall want some very Confidential man in that quarter. The Judiciary system will be extended very soon to North Carolina, I am one of the Committee on the bill, and we wait untill the Committee on the Cession report.—

Adieu!

NEW YORK 8th Feb^y 1790.³⁹

[4]

D^r Sir

Not knowing a Word of what is written on tother Side & therefore not vouching for it, because I would not vouch for what is said by a congressional Man as such, I have only to in-

³⁶This was probably one of the sons of Bodo Otto, noted surgeon of the American Revolution-
ary War. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV (1934), 108-109.

³⁷French-born "Saint-Jean" de Crèvecoeur was well-known for his writings about America, including *Letters from an American Farmer*. *Dictionary of American Biography*, IV (1930), 542-544.

³⁸See page 9n. 29, above.

³⁹This addendum was probably written by Abishai Thomas.

form you, what probably you know viz that the Return of the Quantity of Land extend in Glasgows Office is not come to Hand. Col: Hamilton has laid before Congress a System that opens a new Train of Speculation and will furnish Substance for at least one Weeks Debate in Congress. To day it is taken up in a Committee of the Whole. Much good may it do them. North Carolina having on the floor no Rep: I, did not propose saying Reptiles but Representatives she may shun the Blame of any wrong that may be done. And the odds may be taken at two to one that some will be done if any Steps are taken according to the proposed Plan. You cannot doubt who it was who wrote so fair a Hand.⁴⁰

M. Mey⁴¹ to John Gray Blount

BASSETTERRE GUADELOUPE 9 february
1790

Mr. J. G. Blunt.

Dear Sir

I Received the honor of one of your Letters under Cover of one from Mr. Desvaux. and Shall Embrace every opportunity to give you many thanks for your. Kind offers to Me. and for the future—Shall beg of you to Except of the Consignments of my Vessels and them of my friends.—Mr. Desvaux⁴² Desir'd me to Send by this—opportunity some Rum. to your Address—as I have none, here., on hand I prefer it to Send some from my own Manufacture at Point Peter, as that Port is now open to all foreigners,⁴³ and shall be [2] be happy to Receive any of your Commands there & here,

If in Case Mr. Desvaux shou'd be in want of any articles to Compleat the Cargoes. of any of my Vessels I shall be under obligations and thank you to—advance what he may be in want

⁴⁰Benjamin Hawkins. His writing was a bit effeminate.

⁴¹Mey was engaged in some type of mercantile business in Gaudaloupe. No further personal descriptive items about him have been found.

⁴²Dewaux was probably a supercargo for Mey and had taken a vessel with West Indian goods to North Carolina. This was a bit unusual. Goods from the West Indies were usually shipped to North Carolina in American vessels on their return voyage. See letter from Jn. Bte. Dewaux to John Gray Blount, May 27, 1795, page 550, below.

⁴³The opening of this port was a special concession. The general order for the opening of the French ports did not take place until the French and English were at war (1793) during the French Revolution. See Alice B. Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade with the British West Indies, 1783-1802," *The Journal of Modern History*, XX, No. 1 (March, 1948).

of and Draw immediately on me for the amount which Bills shall have honor Done to them & Paid on Sight.—In Return & beg You to Command me freely. and give me lieve to Subscribe myself

Dear Sir.

Yours Most ob^d.

& very humble

Ser^t.

MEY

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Mercht.
Washington
North Carolina

Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount

NEW YORK February 11, [1790]

Mr. Iredell⁴⁴ is appointed one of ye associate Justices, The committee will on tomorrow report on the Cession,⁴⁵ it is received favourably in common conversation.—The sale of the Georgia Lands will probably involve the U. S. in difficulties, You know too well the disposition of the Indians to leave us any room to expect that they can without arms be prevailed on to [relin]-quish so great a part of their claims.—

John Harvey⁴⁶ to John Gray Blount

HARVEY'S NECK 11th Feb^y. 1790

Dear Sir/

As Soon as Returned home I went to my Neighbours Respecting their Corn, but there had been Merchants from Virginia Who offered 20/. Ready Money & had Purchased all the Corn in the County at that Price, they have promised to pay the Money immediately, I have Warrants Wrote, that if they are not Paid by the last of this M^o. I shall Send the warrants to the Constable—

⁴⁴James Iredell, an English-born North Carolinian from Chowan County. It is said that Washington appointed him to this office—associate judge of the Supreme Court of the United States—without Iredell's knowledge of his intention. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 93.

⁴⁵He was probably referring to the cession of North Carolina's western territory to the Federal government which was being made at this time. Hawkins was much interested in the welfare of the Indians.

⁴⁶John Harvey was probably the cousin of John Gray Blount's wife.

Maj^r. Skinner has Sold all his Wheat to the Virginia Merchants a 17/6 PB.

The Man from Whom I expected to purchase Wheat has Sold his to the Neighbours about him

I am very Sorry you are so Much disappointed as well as myself, for really I expected there would not have been a doubt about the Corn when I left home

If you Should have an Opp^y. to Send me a Barrell of Rum Round, I would pay you Wheat or money which you Choose, My Mother Sisters &c Join in Compliments to yourself & Relations in Washington, In the Mean time

I Remain with the
Greatest Respect

D^r. Sir your Sincere friend &c

J HARVEY

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

to the care of Jacob Blount Esqr.

Edenton

William McKenzie⁴⁷ to John Gray Blount

SKUWAHHEH⁴⁸ 12th. Feb^y. 1790

D^rSir

I received your Letter by your Boy Davie, I sold my own Crop of Corn some Time ago, but thinking I had taken an under Price I have since purchased a thousand barrels (the quantity I sold) the price has been almost daily rising ever since & there are a great Number of Purchasers, from those Circumstances I fear the whole quantity will not be delivered, soon after I made the purchase I informed a Gentleman to whom I am indebted & made him an offer of it, he has wrote me that he will gladly take the Corn but mentions no Price, I have since refused two hard Dollars, whether he will be willing to give as high a Price as any other Person is yet uncertain, I shall hear from him in a few Days, if he declines taking it you shall immediately hear

⁴⁷See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 392-93. Little has been found to identify William McKenzie. Thomas Blount later referred to him as a resident of Martin County. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1795, page 476, below.

⁴⁸Probably Squhawky in Martin County.

from [me] tho' I would not have you to put much Dependance on it as I am rather inclined to think he will take it—should you have an opp^{ty}. I will thank you to inform me the Cash price of barrels Pork at New-bern, I have some Thoughts of coming your way in a few Days

I am Dear Sir

Your most Ob^t. Se

W^m. M^cKENZIE

P. S.

I have heard to Day that Corn is selling as high up as the Indian Land in Bertie for two Dollars, The Purchasors from Viginia are like Swarms of Locusts . . W.M

I have taken the Liberty to inclose the Copy of an Acc^t against M^cCasso, I have writte him that you will receive the money if he chuses to pay it, if he does not I will thank you to issue a writ Time enough for your court

Y^{rs} WILL

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

By Davie

Joseph Palmer⁴⁹ to John Gray Blount

[February 13, 1790]

Mr Blount I have Sent your Negros home [...] got don [down] the Rafts thursday Evening, I made them git Seting pols yesterday, I think it Rether Cold to Send them down if aney accidince Shoud happen they must Suffer on the Raftes, Sirous will not do on the Raft unless it be warm, for he Coud do Little or nothing about Rafting, I will furnish one hand but Cant Send aney more as I am So hard Run, your hands did not git here till tuesday morning, about—[We have about] 2,3000 feet of Lumber

⁴⁹Joseph Palmer was often employed by the Blounts for various services. He had an interest with them in mills at Piney Grove, William Blount's home before he moved to Greenville.

[to get out] which it will take 4 good hands. I Shall be in at Court—and wish we Coud Com to a Settlement—

Am yours—Jo^s PALMER

Saterday morning

13 febu^y 1790

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

John Gray Blount to George Nicolson⁵⁰

Copy*

WASHINGTON Feb^y 14th. 1790

Dr. Sir

The next day after you left this Cap^t. M^c. Daniel⁵¹ arrived from an unsuccessful expedition he purchased none [no corn], He could only find about 500 bb^s. unsold on the place, and that in the hands of 11 People for which they asked 15/. Specie P.bb. not hearing whether you had engaged Atkinsons⁵² and knowing the quantity for the Ship must be had I immediately sent off to engage that 500 bb^s. even at the 15/. if not to be had at less.

Cap^t. M^c.Daniel sails tomorrow with about 330 bb^s. Proby in a few days with 250 and a Cap^t. Wheden in all this Week with about 200 bb^s. Several Vessells have arrived and want freight That [2] That there will be not want of Craft to take Rich^d. Blackledges round in time. I have directed Phil to call by Tho^s. Blount for him to write you what prospect he had

I am with much esteem

Your most Obe^t.

J G. BLOUNT

Sunday Morning

The aforegoing was wrote to go by Phil should he go off in my absence to Pungo from which I returned yesterday and last night received your Express. My second Express has not yet returned from Mattamuskeet but I cound [count] with much

* This is either a copy or an unmailed letter.

⁵⁰See page 6n. 18, above.

⁵¹William McDaniel was a sea captain. See letter from him to John Gray Blount in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 388.

⁵²Benjamin Atkinson in Bensborough, Pitt County, North Carolina, who did extensive shipping and merchandising with the Blounts. Atkinson and Amos Johnston (see page 8n. 20, above), sometimes co-operated in loading vessels for northern or overseas markets.

confidence on 500 bb^s. there; my Brother Tom has made some purchases & has the offer of other 500 bb^s. the mony to be paid immediately which I have wrote him to strike for And to raise the mony I shall immediately load a Vessell to Norfolk with 400 to 500 bb^s. which you must sell at 20/. or more and direct me to whom to deliver it I shall writ to p Lawrence to show the Captain when to deliver it [3] If Gold can be had pray get it but it must be by lbs. as the man to whom it will be p^d. will not receive it otherwise. The 400 to 500 bl^s. which I shall send we count certain on, exclusive of the 800 which we shall put on board the Ship & I have great expectations of 500 bb^s. more which if we get we will send immediately round to Norfolk,⁵³ it is difficult to engage Vessells to come higher

I sent your Letter to Stuart by an oppertunity which offered two days after you left this but have rec^d. no answer, but I will send over my Tar this Week & know when he will be ready to take in, that I may send a man to see the Corn put on board & endeavour to hurry them. Siggs & M^cDaniel are I judge before this at norfolk & in all this Week Proby with 250 bb^s. & Sloop with 500 bb^s. will Sail, and in all the next about 500 bb^s. more & all will certainly be to hand by the 25th. March the time you gave Rhodes, We begin now to have Speculators after that article. Eastwood cannot yet determine whither he will or can send his Schooner but if he will not I will send some Vessell of about that size round with the Corn and Tar you want please [4] please to have the Riging to Norfolk as soon as possible that it may come by some of the return Vessells especieally the standing [sic] Rigins. I have seen M^r. Secretarys funding scheme⁵⁴ And advice that no speculation or rether Contract may be made for Certificates for the sight of that prevents every person who holds them from selling

with much esteem &
your
J G. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. George Nicolson
Mercht.
Richmond

By Bay
Phil

⁵³He was collecting corn for speculation he and Nicolson were making. See page 6ⁿ. 18, above.

⁵⁴He was undoubtedly referring to Alexander Hamilton's plans for funding the debts of the Revolutionary War.

*Jacob Blount⁵⁵ to John Gray Blount*EDENTON Feb^y 15th. 1790D^r. Sir

I went up to Gregorys on friday and ingaged the fish and look'd at a number of Bb^{ls}. and found them perfectly sound and the Bb^{ls}. full. They are up Chowan⁵⁶ about 20 Miles from this Beasley left this on friday morning but the wind was a head so that he had not reached the fishery on Saturday at 2 OClock though I Suppose he must have got there that Night so that in all probality he will reach this to day. I got the fish at 20/ P^r. Bb^l. I am Yours &c.

JACOB BLOUNT

P. S. Harvey said he could not procure the Corn I refer you to Kennedy respecting the Election

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

*James Glasgow⁵⁷ to John Gray Blount*Secretary's Office 22^d. Feb. 1790

Dear Sir

M^r. Williams takes down a Record Book and the Resolve relative to Transcribing the Records in Possession of W^m Boyd⁵⁸ I will particularly thank you for a line to M^r Boyd for the Book, any attention or assistance to M^r Williams shall be gratefully replaced.

I have been so hurried by express's from the Governor⁵⁹ & M^r. Iredell⁶⁰ I have not had time to draw a deed, but on Saturday next shall send down for 1200.10^d. & 3000 8^d. Nails⁶¹ to finish a

⁵⁵See page 4n. 10, above.

⁵⁶The Chowan was a good fishing area and fish constituted an important part of North Carolina's exports. Much was sent to the West Indies and some to the markets of the North and to Europe.

⁵⁷James Glasgow was the first secretary of state of North Carolina. He was chosen to this office in 1776. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 86.

⁵⁸William Boyd of Beaufort County. Walter Clark (ed.), *The State Records of North Carolina* (Goldsboro: Winston, etc., 20 volumes, 1895-1914), XXI, 333.

⁵⁹Alexander Martin of Guilford County.

⁶⁰James Iredell, a prominent lawyer and judge, revised the laws of North Carolina. See page 15n. 44, above.

⁶¹These nails were manufactured by hand at the Blount's nailory. It is not surprising to find them sold by count.

house which I am now about. I shall want about 70^{lb}. of Single tens more which I will send for when Ready—[2] with the utmost esteem and Respect I am Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

J GLASGOW

Jn^o Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: Jn. Gray Blount esquire

Washington

Mr. Williams

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 24th Feb^y 1790

Dear Sir

Europeans are Sending their Ships to the US for Wheat and People in these Northern States are Sending to N Carolina to buy up all your Corn and Pease. I am confident that Corn before the first of May will bring at least 5/ Specie in this Place & little less with you. Are you not able to take in a good deal in Payment of Debts or by other means?

Old Continental Money I think in our State is valued like the old State Money at 800 for one. Be so good as try to buy up all you can at or near that Price. You may even give twice that Price for it viz 1 for 400 payable in the current State Paper. The Certificates issued by Ja^s. Green⁶² which were to have been redeemed by Dollar Money are exactly of the Same Value as old continental Dollars you may buy them as such. If you can buy up any State Certificates that are not of 86⁶³ & are not counterfeit for 4/ or less I think you may venture freely [2] I will take an equal Share with you in whatever Continental Money or Greens Certificates or Receipts you may buy to any Amo^t. & I will dispose of them here as fast as you can send them on.

I am D^r. Sir Your obed^t. Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

⁶²James Greene was Treasurer of Loans in 1781. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 782. This letter reveals the financial advantage the Blounts enjoyed by having such close friends as Abishai C. Thomas and Hugh Williamson in important offices of the Federal Government.

⁶³Certificates, commonly referred to as Warrenton certificates, for the redemption of the specie and discharging "areas due to the army" were issued in 1776 (*State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 42, 210). These certificates were to be given by the officers and passed on by the Board of Commissioners. Some of these were improperly issued, some were received without the qualifying service having been performed, and some were obtained by fraud and bribery.

*George Nicolson⁶⁴ to Thomas Blount*RICHMOND 25th Feb^y 1790D^r Sir

I wrote you by Express last week since then I have not heard from you—& as the rage for Grain seems to be slackening I would advise notwithstanding what I wrote you not to exceed two dollars for Corn [.] at that price we may gain but higher I think wont do—please communicate this to your Brother & I have not time to write more fully you will please attend to the above—Corn here is not more than 17/. & wheat has fallen to 8/—the prices Quoted from Europe is the occasion of this fall I have requested M^r Anthony to send this by Express to you please pay the expence in haste

Your mo: ob^t

GEO: NICOLSON

Addressed: Mr. Thomas Blount

Mercht.

Tarborough

Mr. Anthony will please forward
this by Express

*George Nicolson to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND 7th March 1790D^r Sir

I duly rec^d your favor of the 21st Ult^o. & am sorry to find M^cDaniel⁶⁵ was so unsuccessful I hope that at any rate you have secured a sufficient Quantity for the Ship—

In consequence of what you wrote me & the pressing Letter from your Brother I have sold the Cargo of Corn which you advised me you should Ship say between 4 & 500 bbls @ 17/. delivered at Norfolk by the 15th Curr^t. I hope you have shiped the Corn—& that it will arrive there in time, the 1000 dollars which I have now sent on by M^r Munro has been paid me in advance for the Corn & the balance will be paid in all this month—I advised your Brother not to prosecute the purchase of Corn any farther unless it cou'd be had @ 12/. V [Virginia] Cur^y & the

⁶⁴See page 6n. 18, above.⁶⁵See page 18n. 54, above.

payments [2] extended so as to give time for the money to be raised from the sale of the Corn. the price here has abated both from the accounts from Europe being not so favorable as was expected & the fall of Exchange which got down her to 25 PC^t. & to the Northward as low as 50 eq^t. only to 20 here I have not yet been able to do any thing with the Cargo on board the Ship I have been offered $2/3$. but hold up @ $2/6$ Sterl^s P bush^l. you will please advise me how she comes on. & let me beg you will strain every nerve to have her ready to proceed in all this month—I would also advise your shipping round to Norfolk as soon as possible all the extra Corn that may remain after dispatching the Ship of this you will advise me as well as of other matters upon rec^t. of this by Post—I am advised only of the arrival of Digges at Norfolk. what has become of M^cDaniel [3] & Proby. I hope that Rhodes Brigg is ready to sail by this time, you will please push on the balance of the Tar as fast as possible, & continue to make up the quantity^s 3000 bbls—this I presume there will be no difficulty in doing—The Cordage will all be ready this week which will be forwarded down to M^r Blow ready for the Brigg when she arrives with the Tar—Shou'd you see M^r. Stewart tell him I shall write him relative to the ships destination in a few days—I have done nothing in the Certificates they have fallen here, I could have purchased your State @ $4/$ interest given in—the discrimination proposed in Congress is at an end—the motion for it was lost by a large majority—I am with great respect

GEO: NICOLSON

Your mo ob Serv

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Mercht.
Washington

William McDaniel to John Gray Blount

NORFOLK Sunday the 7th. March 1790

S^r.

I have had Sum difficulty with the tarr[.] have had every bb^l. to overhall and 6/ and 6^d. Cooperage⁶⁶ to pay it has taken

⁶⁶Cooperage was often done while the vessel was en route. Complaints about the bad condition of goods which were shipped were not unusual. North Carolina's inspection laws were quite lax.

3 bb^{ls}. to fill up the rest owing intierly to their having water in them, am Sorrey to informe you that Iron nor Lignumvita is not to be had at this place on any terms, the Cordage I have got from M^r. Parker 2412^{lb}. neet hundered. Parker had no Canviss but have got it from miers to whome I had a letter, at the anormus price £4 [,] twine 2/6^{dlb}., [per pound] Salt thay aske 15^d. which I am determing not to give. the price of Corn is hear on the fowl [fall in Price] 14/6^d. & 15/ is the hiest price offerd;— I hope to leave this tomorrow [,] this voyage Requiers pateance tho mine is intirely gon [gone] and well it may,
am S^t. yours to

Command

W^m. M^c. DANIEL

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

Abishai C. Thomas⁶⁷ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 12th March 1790

Dear Sir

Your favors of 31 Jan^r. & 3rd Feb. are duly to hand, I had not made insurance⁶⁸ on your Shipment because there had been no "very stormy weather" however I began to be alarm'd, when the arrival of the Brig happen'd and dispelld all fears,— I have paid your bill which is enclos'd, & Send you a loaf of Sugar, the Hemp Seed cannot now be procur'd, nor do I believe we Shall be able to get it, however we Shall continue our endeavours, in the mean time if you can procure it from any other quarter, I think you had better not depend on this,—I cannot Send you any Nail rod because my Cash is out, & I

⁶⁷Abishai Thomas was probably a native of Georgia (David Allison to John Gray Blount April 3, 1794, page 360, below). He seems to have lived with John Gray Blount for a long time and it is not improbable that it was Blount's influence which obtained for him the office of claims agent for North Carolina. He was evidently of a brilliant mind but addicted to bad habits—drinking and gambling, particularly the latter. In fact John Gray Blount had judgment brought against him for Thomas's bail. The latter was then in jail in Philadelphia. (H. Potter to John Gray Blount, October 28, 1799, John Gray Blount Papers.) In spite of his weaknesses he was appointed chief clerk of the Navy Department, 1798-1801 (Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 205). During his stay in the North he kept close touch with John Gray Blount and engaged in numerous business deals for the Blount firm. On November 3, 1803, William Blackledge wrote John Gray that Thomas "is not able scarcely to get along—he is very poor indeed and I fear from his character will never be in a better situation." He left for Baltimore and no further mention of him has been noted. John Gray Blount Papers.

⁶⁸He usually waited until a vessel was overdue before taking out insurance on it. This seems to have been the customary procedure of the time.

cannot replenish until you relieve me, therefore must Solicit you to Send the remains of my stipend in your hands as early as convenient—If I Should have to send you any rod in future I shall pay more attention to it than the former, & between ourselves I must inform you that this is not the only thing our friend M^r. R [Ramsay]⁶⁹—has displeas'd me in, The day on which your bill was presented I waited on the old gentleman & inform'd him in writing the day on which it would become due, at Same time urging him to compleat the Sales of your first Shipment by that time, when the Brig arriv'd I put the Shipment by her into his hands & again put him in, mind of the day on which I should be compel'd to pay the bill, notwithstanding which, he went out of Town to [2], to [install, sic] a Sett of Mills, within two days and has not yet return'd, 2 Hhds Tob^o. & 2 Casks Rice of the first Shipment are Yet unsold, and he [Ramsay] left his Son without even the power to draw Money out of the Bank, this reduc'd me to a dilemma, & I was under the necessity of taking up 100 Dollars, of a userer, at an extravagant premium.

You made a mistake of a month in drawing on the P. M. G., [Postmaster General] the quarter ends the last [of] March you drew payable [on] the first, this Subjected me to a Small inconvenience, add to them the game play'd me by S. & B. [Stuart & Barr] of which I inform'd you in a former Letter,⁷⁰ who have not yet return'd me either the Certificate of York or any compensation in lieu, and you may with truth Suppose that for a few Days I had but a disagreeable time of it, however I have work'd through, our faith is Sav'd & I am Satisfy'd, I shall again push S & B for the Certificate, or Money, as I can Sell it in its present unliquidated State for at least the Sum of £25.4.7. which they Say is due to M^r. Coart, If I Should not be able to get either I trust you will pardon my weakness, folly, or call it what you please & take the first opportunity of remitting me to the amount, as I believe when I can prevail on M^r R—to close his Sales & Accounts it will be found I am Something in advance even if I Succeed with S & B, [Stuart & Barr] So that your remittance cannot come amiss, if there is a Surplus I can lay it out as you Shall order—I Send a coat pattern for Billy Keais, which I place to your account for the present, Capt Keais

⁶⁹Ramsay. The Blounts had done business with Ramsay and Coxe, a firm in the mercantile business in New York, some time earlier. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 132-133.

⁷⁰See his letter of December 19, 1789, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 520-523.

may chuse whether to place it to your C^r. or mine, if the latter, please Settle my account finally with him & [3] take up a Certificate, perhaps in name of Capt Howel Tatum, which I put into his hands as Security, charge me with the amount of his demand, C^r. me for the Cloth &c. & remit me the Certificate, 'tis now of much more value than the Sum I deposited it for, & Capt Keais has an undoubted right to hold it, therefore let it be understood that I do not pretend to reclaim it, let the matter rest entirely with him, & I Shall be perfectly Satisfy'd let what will be the result—State Securities are now worth here about 5/, perhaps more, but the Speculators have so many emissaries abroad and have drain'd the City of so much Cash that it is with difficulty any price can be got unless on Credit, Continental Securities have fallen in consequence of the Scarcity of Cash & the probability of the State debts being assum'd by the U. S.—about 7/4 for principal & 5/9 for Int. is now as much as can be got, by the bye it is not certain that the assumption will take place, there was a majority of 5 in committee of the whole House for the measure, if N. C. should be unanimous against it will be a nice question, & I hope we shall be represented prior to a final decision, whether it will be to the interest of our State I cannot yet hazard an opinion, but the moment the Principles or mode of Settlement between the States in case of assumption is decided on, I Shall venture to hazard one & you Shall have it, in the mean time I think you may venture to purchase up Officers & Soldiers Certificates avoiding those of Warrenton 8/86⁷¹ for whether the assumption generally takes place or not, I think the U. S. bound to ensure payment of these, the debt was originally the U. S., on recommendation the State assum'd it, but neglecting or *refusing* to pay, is not the U. S. ultimately bound,? I think so, & so does also [4] also another great man, I am of opinion your Certificates for Supplies furnish'd are not in so eligible a Situation, the purchaser was a State Agent, and tho. the articles purchas'd might be applied to Continental use, yet they might be applied to State purposes as was the case in numerous instances to my knowledge—the deliveries of those State Agents or Commissioners are charged by the State to the U. S. She obtains a Credit, consequently the U. S. would pay twice for the same article were they to be compeld to re-

⁷¹See page 21*n.* 63, above.

deem your Certificates, So that I presume unless a general assumption takes place you have only the State for paymaster—If you deal in Military Certificates, note that none but who were in Service on the 10th of April 1780 or Subsequent were entitled to depreciation consequently none other will be redeemable by the U. S. on any principle except that of a general assumption in which case all will be on a footing [equal footing, *sic*], Auditors Certificates as good as any, even Some of the Warrenton emission will come into play, but they are so few that the risque would be too great to justify venturing on them unless you had the *Key of which more in future*

I Sent you some time Since by a Capt Nail or Vail the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, I hope it got safe to hand, Nail said his Vessel would not go higher than Bath but that he should go to Washington himself & would carry up the Packet, if you have not got it & there Should be such a thing afloat at Bath or neighborhood it must be yours & you may lay violent hands on it. however you may pick it out of the Papers herewith Sent yourself & Arnett—The Wheat Sold @10/8 Flaxseed 5/6. — Tar unsold, would not fetch more than [5] than 10/. I therefore have Stor'd it for a few days but Shall ultimately be compeld to take what it will bring, or else, please present my best respects to M^{rs} Blount with many thanks for her very acceptable present, which got Safe to hand tolerably sound, I divided it with M^{rs}. Williamson who returns M^{rs}. B. her thanks—adieu for the present, I am

D^r Sir, Your most ob^t Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

I have Sent for M^r. Blackledge 6 lb. Cork for his fishing Seine, I will thank you to examine whether I did in your Books debit myself & C^r. him for £10. which I ow'd him, if so please receive from him 7/ for the Cork, otherwise Say nothing about it, the Price current is in the paper of this day the 13th March, & is said to be tolerably accurate Wheat will hold its ground if not rise till harvest

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington
Capt. Eastwood

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 12th March 1790

Dear Sir

You will be so good as consult W^m Blount on the Subject of my Letter to him of this Date. viz whether the Holders of Land to the South of the Tennessee had best apply to congress for Leave to surrender their Lands on obtaining other Certificates for them to the same Amo^t as the lands cost. The increased Value of the Certificates might be an Object compared with the great uncertainty when those Lands may be come at.

We are here told that Speculators are buying up the Certificates of 1786—though they are declared by the State to be *not good*. Let me advise you not to touch them. As for the other State Securities, if you can get them in Paym^t. of Debts or in Payment for Lands or on Credit or by any other honest means I think you may touch them freely if their Price is not greatly advanced above what they were when I left Home. I think it probable that they will be up to 6/ Specie for the Principle & nearly as much for the Interest, make what Allowance you think fit for [2] for Lee Way. I am

D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

Favoured by

Capt. Eastwood

*A. Tatom⁷² to John Gray Blount*HILLSBORO^g. March 18th. 1790

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 12th Instant, by M^r. Kennady⁷³ I duly received. Your Certificates were not exchanged. with the Treas^r.

⁷²Probably Absolom Tatoom of Hillsboro who was a prominent political figure in that area. He was a member of the Convention of 1788, which refused to ratify the Federal Constitution and of the General Assembly of North Carolina. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 2; XVII, 460; XXII, 4, 6, 26, 30.

⁷³This was probably John Kennedy, sheriff of Beaufort County in 1790. *Legislative Papers, House of Commons of North Carolina*, Dec. 1-15, 1790 (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh).

at the time I received your brothers letter, therefore it shall not be done until further orders from you on that head; As to exchanging thim fer Military Certific^s. it is impossible, as the most [of] thim in this part of the world, have been sold by the holders, to my Country men the Virginians and others; What is to be the event time must determine. Shou'd you determine to have them Exchanged it will be done at any time either by writing to the Treas^r. or myself.

I am Sir

Your Ob^t. Hble Serv^t

A TATOM

Your Letter to Colo. Davie⁷⁴ shall be delivered on his return to this place.

J G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount esquire
Washington

By Fav. of
Mr. Kennady

John Haywood⁷⁵ to John Gray Blount

HILLSBOROUGH March 18th 1790

Dear Sir

By M^r. Kennedy I am this day favored with yours of the 12th instant.—thro' your Brothers I became informed of your Wishes as to the Certificates you placed in the hands of Major Tatom.—M^r. Tatom in my absence from the office delivered yours together with Burtons and other Certificates placed in his care, to M^r. White who assists me; but on my return I took care they should not be exchanged, but have filed them alone with intention of letting them lie until you shall finally determine with regard to them.—they shall therefore remain in the office unexchanged until I see or hear from you respecting them.

M^r. Keais wrote me as you supposed—I lament he is so greatly in arrear; am fully disposed to do all in my power to serve him; every indulgence which I can consistently grant he may promise himself; but both you and he know, that I shall

⁷⁴William R. Davie.

⁷⁵John Haywood, the state treasurer of North Carolina. See page 5*n*. 13, above.

be blamed if the Settlements of the Collectors of Import are not complete or nearly so by the meeting of the next assembly.

I am happy in having it in my power [2] power to tell you, that neither Matrimony nor travelling appear to injure either my wife or myself; we are both well, in good plight and much indebted by your Civilities.

Be pleased to mention me in the most respectful and acceptable manner to Mr^s. Blount, accept my best Wishes yourself, and believe me as I really am,

very much & very truly

Yours.

JOHN HAYWOOD

I desired your Brother Tom to speak or write to you to endeavor to procure for me as many Feathers from about the Barr which had never been used as would be sufficient for two Beds—if he has done so and it has been in your power with convenience to enquire after any, I would thank you to let me know my prospects of getting them. I once gave you a Receipt for some Warrants belonging to Col^o Parker which you placed in my hands—I will thank you to send it to me; as it might, in case of your death, do me an injury should it fall into improper hands.

John G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

M Kennedy

John Stewart⁷⁶ to John Gray Blount

DALYS⁷⁷ March 18th. 1790

Dear Sir

I received your favour by Cap^t. Bryan and observe the Contents; The Ship will set out from here on Sunday her lighter is loading I have got Cap^t. Thomas Cox of Edenton to go Master of her, I am much distressed in my mind to think Mr Nicholson

⁷⁶John Stewart was a merchant and shipper. References are made to his warehouse where tobacco was stored. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 566-567.

⁷⁷Dalys, also spelled Daileys, was on the Roanoke River in Tyrrell County. See H. Mouzon *et al.*, "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina," Published May 30, 1775 by R. Sayer and J. Bennett. John Stewart probably lived at Dalys.

has not yet informed me of the port my Ship is to go to, that I might order insurance before She leaves Edenton, If you Know pray inform me that the Ship may be Covered by insurance, the Ship Cannot leave Edenton before that matter is known as we Cannot Ship our Seamen untill we know our port I am Respectfully

Your M^o Obed^t Hb^l. S^t.

JOHN STEWART

Addressed: John G. Blount esqur.
Merchant
Washington

Hon by
Mr. McPherson

George Nicolson to Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 22nd. March 1790

D^r Sir

I have just time to mention that Congress has adopted M^r Hamiltons Funding plan & have assumed the state debts, you had better secure as many as you can—Corn begins again to look up [.] a great number of Vessels have arrived for Grain, you will secure all you can upon a moderate credit. within the former limits— write JGB. that I shall this week send him on some money to comply with his contracts—I have not yet sold the Ships Cargo—but hope to do it this week—money very scarce. Exchange falling—in haste

Your mo: obt Ser

GEO: NICOLSON

Addressed: Mr. Thomas Blount
Merchant
Tarborough

Benjamin Russel⁷⁸ to John Gray Blount

MARCH the 23rd 1790

Dear

Sir please to deliver to Cap^t Palmer what you can in Complying with my Mamrandam [Memorandum] handed by him To you [.] I stand in need of Sugar and Coffey at present, & hope it will be in your way to Supply me with Some and a few yards of Middle size Linnen which I'll Settle with you for in The Settlement of the Brig and preserve me ten barrels of Corn [.] the pork I want sent by palmer what corn is not Due me after takeing of five Barrels pork on our agreement I am willing you shall pay your Self for at Settlement, I am afraid i shall not Get any Money from Marshal on the Account of the Repairs of his Sloop [.] that was to be all paid in Mony I am Still in hopes of Geting Something though your purchasing the Contrct from him if you ill [will] please to let me know when he Comes to washaton, you may not be oneasey on the Account of the Brig Geting down the Creek below the Shole [.] if the anchor & Cable is ready at the Day of Lanching [Launching] she will not Draw more than five feet water aft & in a Common full time she will Go over [sic] with the Strength of three or four Hands I will lanch if possible in Twenty days I have ten hands at work on her Carpenters I am in Hopes of geting her Redy by the time you all want her

I am sir your humble S^t

BENJ^a. RUSSEL

I shall prepare for Lanching Sometime before she is finished in order to take at tide

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH, March 27th 1790

Sir

Inclosed is a Letter yesterday rec^d. from M^r. Nicholson informing that Congress have adopted Hamiltons funding System & assumed the States Debts & I send it to you thus early that

⁷⁸Benjamin Russell was a shipbuilder. He was working on a brigantine which he had agreed to build for a man named Marshall. It is probable that he was also building a sloop for the same man. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 496.

you may concert your plan for such Speculation as your funds may admit of & your judgment approve—Major [Charles] Gerrard who will deliver it, is ready to execute such part of the plan as shall be assigned him provided you accede to his proposal, which is to purchase for his & our joint acco^t.—to put *his* time against *our* horse & divide the expences—should a speculation be concluded on, no man can execute it better than him, particularly the final Settlement department & for that reason I presume you will not hesitate to accede to his terms—It is now time to give farther directions to Tatem concerning the Certificates deposited in his hands & as my brother William is going there, it will be well to give them through him—but in [2] giving them regard must be had to our engagement to the Treasurer [John Haywood] & the situation he may be placed in by a contrary order to that first given—I have rec^d. your Letter of the 25th inclosing Tob^o. notes. which shall be attended to—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

I have 1 hh^d. 1st. 1 hh^d. 2^d & 1 hh^d 3^d. Class Tob^o.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENE VILLE Monday March 29th 1790

The Weather and other good Reasons detained me at Contentney untill I only arrived at Home last Night and the Rain will detain me here today so that I shall not leave Tarboro^s. before *early* on Wednesday Morning—I am thus particular in informing you of the Time I shall leave Tarboro^s that you may if any *important* Information should reach you by post or otherwise respecting the Assumption Act, Certificates &c communicate it to me by Express—I can hardly believe that the act could have passed *finally* so as for Nicolson to have recved [received] information of it so early as the 22^d. Instant at Richmond [...] for upon looking over the New York papers it appears that the Committee of the whole reported on the Act on the 10th and the Letters of Williamson and others are dated on the 12th.⁷⁹—The

⁷⁹Blount was correct in this opinion. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, New York, 16th April, 1790, below.

Exchequer Business as the Judges call it that is the State Business I believe generally comes the second and third days of the Court so that if a Judgment passes against Armstrong this Term it must be early in the Term and how can it pass [?] must it not [2] be for *Mony* not for *Certificates* and if in *Mony* must it not be at 4/ agreeable to the Value established by the late Act and if so will it not be best to forbear to pay up the *Certificates* and pay *Mony* to the Judgment 4/ *Mony* in lieu of 20/ *Certificates*? I think it will for I take it for granted if the Assumption Act has not passed that it will pass—And it may be that other people who are Debtors of Armstrong *Certificates* would give Bonds & Security to pay *Certificates* at a future day provided any person would agree to pay *mony* to the Judgment—this would be speculating on *Certificates* at 4/ at six Months Credit a Thing Carthy much wished to do—in Short I think it probable there will be at Hillsboro^g. a great Chance to make large Speculations and if you get any Information of *worth* you had best send it to me by Express *even* to Hillsboro^g. *itself* where probably I may stay a Week and I shall return by Way of Tarboro^g.—I wish Carthy could have gone up I think my Credit & his *Mony* would be equally and mutually beneficial to each other and if he is at Washington he had better come on without delay in my Opinion [3] I have now to inform you that I have at Contentney made a Speculation on the Montfort & McColloch *Certificates* say Military ones I believe to the Amount £10.000 at least in joint Copartnership at 2/ in the pound the particulars of which are Sheppard says he has by him about £3000 that there are in other Hands from 15000 to 20,000 pounds mostly in Ben. McColloch's and that he will get as many as he can if all on our joint Account, but engages as many as £10,000 my Half to be rated as before said at 2/ in the pound—The pay rent to Sheppard will be easily [made, *sic*] partly through Palmer—Carthy I think would agree to give 4/ in the pound for them but I am not for taking it, for if they are assumed as I think they surely will be they must be worth as much as 8/ in the pound thus the Speculation Stands. as a Bet of £500 to £2000 that they will [4] be included in the Assumption Bill. and that the Bill will pass, pray write to Williamson & tell him they must be included in the Bill—I have considered this Speculation That is my Half as made for J. G. & W. B. [John Gray & William Blount] as the

pay^t. is to be out of their Funds say the Mills principally but if you choose it may be J. G. & T. B. [John Gray & Thomas Blount] and perhaps the latter may be best—I shall mention the purchase to T. B. but shall not say on whose Acc^t. unless he asks me and in that Case I shall give him a Choice—I want 2 or 3 Bushels of Irish Potatoes to plant and if you have Flour to sell as some Body has informed Molsey I will give you Bacon of which I believe I have to spare for a Barrel of it please send both by the first Conveyance.—If you have any Clean Rice on Hand I should be glad of 25 lb. or if you have rough of a Bushel or two some of it to plant as I have some good new Ground for the purpose & some of it to clean out—[5] Colonel Glasgow wants a Bag of Coffee which I have informed him you will send him & charge it to him I did not say at what price I suppose 4/—

If I get Mony from Haywood am I to bring it home with me in preference to laying it out in Certificates if I find them at a low price and I find by paying some Mony down a Credit may be had for a larger Sum?—If you Start Sam early he may be here before I set out for I go only to Tarboro^e. tomorrow say I will start at 10. O'Clock

Addressed: John Gray Blount
By Sam

Thomas Stewart⁸⁰ to John Gray Blount

HUFFS⁸¹ 30th March 90

Sir—

If you have not disposed of the Certificates which I let you have When here, I wou'd be glade you wou'd return them to me again by Next post to be left at Huffs—

Mr. Littlejohn⁸² of Edenton gives 4/. hard money in the pound (interest given in) for the New Certificates—Col^o. Edm^d. Blount received it of him for £500 the Other day, & brought me word from him that he would give me that price for Mine—Cap^t. Butler has given my brother 3 11 Coffee p^r pound for his old ones at £500 intrest given in—and Could have got the Same for mine if he would have Sold them—M^{rs}. Cooly wou'd

⁸⁰Probably the Thomas Stewart who represented Tyrrell County in the Assembly in 1788. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 610.

⁸¹Huffs has not been located. It might have been a local store in Tyrrell County.

⁸²Probably Joseph B. Littlejohn, the son-in-law of Willie Jones.

not take less for Hers than a Hard Dollar in the pound. She got a hint from a Gentleman, from the Norward [Northward], now in Edenton —

The old Certificates I have got amounting to £344.7.7 on the face, which [I] Shall keep untill I hear from you; because I wou'd not be worse than my word, if you have Sold before this reaches You, I Will Comply at the 5/6 for both Kinds. I intended to washington when I left home but being taken with a disagreeable Sensation in my Head thought proper to return —pray Send the Certificates Next post to Huffs if they are not Sold. I am Sir

With respect your Hb^l Servant
THOMAS STEWART

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Merchant
Washington

Thomas W. Pearson⁸³ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN April 1st. 1790

D^r Sir

Yours of the 25th. Ul^t. by M^r. [Abner] Neale have duly rec^d. —could you have got a part of the boards down here in the cours of ten or twelve days from hince it would have answered my purpose better, as I about Loading Capⁿ. Morrison's Brig^t. for S^t. Croix, which will sail about the 20th Ins^t. however if the Lumber cannot be got down before, I hope you will not fail to have it here as soon as possible after the 15th. Ins^t. which time you mention you will have it Down —

Yours &^c
THO^s. W. PEARSON

John G. Blount—Esq^r.
Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

⁸³Little has been found about Thomas W. Pearson of New Bern. He was, as the correspondence indicates, friendly towards the Blounts. He was apparently a large planter and shipper. The State of North Carolina borrowed 7850w of tobacco from him in 1781. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 810, 977, 978.

*Abner Neale⁸⁴ to John Gray Blount*MILE END April 4th. 1790

Sir/

Agreeable to our Conversasion when at your place I attended at M^{rs}. Blackledges Vendue and hired Joe with his Wife and two small Children at forty Barrells Corn P year pay able on the 1st. day of January yearly and am to have them for three Years provided the Old Lady lives so long which I think there is no dainger but she will, I have also all the Tanners & Curryers Utensials which she had, on loan to be returned in kind and like good order, at the expiration of his time; I am now preparing the House frame—which will be much larger than I at first thought having measured one in Town find it must be 28 feet Square to containe the Bark Mill &^c. therefore insted of the 8^d Nails sent for[,] you'l please send 6^d[.] I now send you a Mem^o. of what Nails I think I shall want

I am going to have 2 Inch Cypress plank Saw'd for the Vatts as Col^o. Leech informs me that its much the best as well as the Workmen who I am going to get to do the Work.—McKinlay tells me that he will assist me with every thing in his power either by Buying Hides or paying for the [2] Sixty Cords of Bark which Hatfield has now ready and promises me I shall have if Cap^t. Cook on his Arivial will take McKinlay's lumber or any thing he has to load out his Schooner, Cook and Hatfield Married Sisters and have dealings and Hatfield is determined to quit the Business, I expect to purchase his Mill as well as the Bark. You have at T. Turners 27 Casks Spirits Turpentine[,] Sharp⁸⁵ having sent the Eight last down Yesterday, there is no Vessell going from here to Phil^a. soon, Gurling Tinker, & Delino having Sailed on the day I got here from your place.

I now send Some with a Cask for the Nails also M^r. Jones' Trunk, &^c. please send me one pound of Clover seed if to spare, the sooner I get the Plank the better, I shall want 500 feet of good 2 Inch for the Bark floor which please order.—

⁸⁴Abner Neale was the brother-in-law of John Gray Blount. He was preparing to set up a tanning business in association with the Blounts. This seems to have been located at Mile End, probably a small community near New Bern.

⁸⁵Sharpe Blount, the half brother of John Gray Blount.

Mr. Bryan Whitfield says he will try and supply me with some Beef Cattle to Kill & says for Cash they may be bought Cheap with him this Season & the more I can get to Kill the better as Hides is the only thing I am fearful about. the Negroe Fellow Joe and his Family is to hand Yesterday in Sharps Boat, pray had I not better as Mr. Blackledg is is always out [3] about the Country git him [Blackledge] to be purchasing Cattle for me

I want much to get in order to Work this Summer as the Negroe hire is running on; If your plank is not to hand soon enough I can borrow from M^cKinlay what I want; and return it when yours comes down. had you not better send on the Saws by Sam, but how they will be got from here to Willmington I know not.

I am Sir your Ob^t. Servant

ABNER NEALE

P. S. You had better have the Nails headed up in a Cask as then Sam cant loose any of them, and if you want my small Cart to go on to Willmington with the Saws you can have it, had you not better send Mr. Blackledges Davie back with a Horse to go in the Cart to Willmington—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Per Sam

James Jasper to John Gray Blount

[April 8, 1790]

Sir

I have this day Got the Sloop of, I am very Sorrow, it was not in my Power to have got her up Sooner, Shoud she still be in time for your Freight I Shall be very Glad, you will please to let my Brother have as much Rope as will make the Sloop a pair of Shrows of a Side I am

Sir your Obt Serva^t

JAMES JASPER

Ap^l. 8th. 1790

John G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Selden Jasper

*Amos Johnston⁸⁶ to John Gray Blount*TOWN CREEK 9th April 1790

Sir

You^l. please to observe the Size of the Nails I send you by Jo^s. Howell only the 20^d to be Some more Substance [some more of them, sic.] I want them in the following Proportion 30^{lb} of 20^d - 200^{lb} of 10^d 200^{lb} of 8^d 120^{lb} of 6^d—the ballance I will give you after the workman Comes to work—I wish you to Precure me 3 barrels of Herring and Send them up I also wish you to Send me one or two more barrels of that Rum I had of you before if you Can afford it at the Same price in Pork please to Sell 4 ^{bbls}. of the pork for Rum & Send it up if you have not got it of your own to Send an[d] also Save me 200 bushels of Shell to Send by Howell about the first of May Next. I Expect to See you at Pitt Court when we Can Know more about the Sale of my Corn I am D^r S^r Y^{rs}. & ^c

AMOS JOHNSTON

To M^r John G. Blount
Washington

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 16th April 1790

Dear Sir

The Certificates you Sent came some what too late for a good Market, perhaps they may come in Play hereafter, I wrote you that I should infallibly oppose the Assumption of the State Debts; it appeared to be a measure big with Injustice to N Carolina and badly as that State has mannaged its mony affairs I am in Honour & duty bound to prevent the Practice of frauds against it; I confess I had doubts whether the Rage of Assumption could be stayed, but we have now a majority against the measure, and the Certificate Speculators are at a full Stand.

The Bill for erecting a Government in the ceded Territory South of the Ohio⁸⁷ has come from the Senate to the House of

⁸⁶See page 8ⁿ. 20, above.

⁸⁷The Blounts were interested in this bill. William Blount was hoping to obtain the appointment of governor of the new territory.

Representatives, but a Bill we sent from the House of Representatives for raising more Troops I fear will be lost in the Senate.

Inclosed is a Subscription Paper,⁸⁸ I hope that during the Sitting of the Superiour Court at Newbern you will be able to Secure 20, 30 or 40 Dls towards this Work, I have nearly finished the Map on a Smaller Scale with Improvements, and shall get it engraved within 4 Weeks after I learn that 100 Dls are received toward the Work. You see [2] that no more than one Dollar is demanded for the Map, a Small Price, the Analisis included, but the Mony must be advanced, you know how faithless People are apt to be in attending to the payment of Subscriptions. I wish to be able to give away about 100 of those Maps and Descriptions of the Country. This coming out as the new Gov^t is Set on foot must affect the public Mind and turn the Current of migrations towards Tennessee,

I am Dear Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE⁸⁹ Saturday April 17th 90

My own Disposition for Company the Indisposition of inability of our worthy friend Major Doherty and the Lameness of my Horse occasioned by his being unskillfully shod detained me so that I did not arrive here before Thursday Night. My Sister came down with me [and] is gone to Blount Hall to be here again on Monday Night on her Way home [Tarborough].—After thinking much on the Subject of our owing the Entry Taker [and] that his Securities were uneasy; and of course blamed the Debtors to the Office generally as Armstrong⁹⁰ could give them no other Reason why he did not settle with the Comptroller, that Doherty appeared to be fast in a decline either from Strong Drink Vexation or other Causes in whose possession the Books were, that we had our own Mony from the Treasury—I determined to have the Certificates of J.G. & T. B. now coined and that part which was negociable at the Treasury I there left uncut

⁸⁸Williamson hoped to get enough subscriptions to have his map of Tennessee published.

⁸⁹William Blount was living in Greenville, North Carolina, at this time.

⁹⁰John Armstrong, the entry taker for North Carolina.

from the Check with a Request that it should so remain liable to be redeemed on the [2] Restoration of the Sum received but that the Treasurer should be at liberty to consider it as paid into the Office whenever it became necessary for his own Justification in Office so to do, telling him that in Case the State Debts were assumed that We should certainly redeem it and it will be as good as any other Certificate upon Hamilton's plan I conceive. With the other part the 2/3^{ds} I paid the Entry Office the Balance due and two Two hundred and Sixty two pounds 9/9 over I was obliged to wait on Doherty four days at his House before a Settlement could be effected and then I waited two days in hourly expectation that my Change the Balance should be handed me and at last came off leaving an Order for it in the Hands of Simon Bright who at present acts as one of Haywoods Clerks—On the Score of Fees We owed £24—which I paid by an Assumption of that Sum to Colonel Glasgow—I found Stokely Donelson⁹¹ at Hillsboro and took him with me to the Office where We filled up and caused to be issued [3] the Warrants for the Land entered in partner Ship with his father for 97000 Acres, he wished them issued in the Name of J. G. & T. B. saying such was the Contract—I thought otherwise but agreed to it knowing the Staff being in our own Hands could not injure Us and in those names they were issued & to him delivered. Upon examining the Entry Books I also found that 5 of our 1000 Acre Tracts Warrants had not been issued for, two of them I saw issued and both Doherty & Donelson assured me that other three should be issued before Donelson left the Office—I wish they may perform their Assurance.—Donelson assures me that if the Indians continue as peaceable this Summer as they have been [,] the whole of the Warrants in his Hands shall be located and the Surveyors Works returned to the Office and at all Events those that are in partnership with his father the Locations having already been Made and accurately described in the Entry I remarked to him as the Office was Shut [4] and as there would certainly be a Surplusage of good Land after all the Warrants were located I did not wish him to locate with more haste than advantage especially the 1000 Acre Tracts and to take Care that the Identity of all Lands surveyed can be proved at a future day, this he says will be very easy with those entered with his father. In short I fully impressed my Ideas of western Lands on

⁹¹Stokely Donelson was the son of John Donelson from the Tennessee area. He was a professional land surveyor.

him—You desired me to send if I recollect from 10 to 15,000 Acres that is Warrants to that amount to Colonel King [,] this you see could not be done but if *a little more Land* is wished there yet remains in the Office Warrants in 5000 Acre Tracts to the Amount of perhaps from 250 to 300,000 Acres and to the End that we may have some if We please Donelson has left a Transfer in the Office for three Tracts to be used by us if we please and in Case We do Use this Transfer We are to account with *him* not the *Office* for as I have [5] before said I should not like to have it understood that I am in debt to the office. I confess I had like to have ordered out the Warrants in the Name of J G & T B but upon Recollection I thought it was quite as well as there was time to take Your Opinion and beside I recollected that it might be well or ill as Congress assumed or not the State Debts and that after that question was decided by Congress the Land must still be in my power to take or not. The Writ vs the Entry Taker was returned to the past Court executed on him and an alias will issue of Course against the Bail returnable to the next Court so that Judgment may not pass against him for those two Years at any rate not inless than one—I spoke with Davie about the Suit against J.G. & T.B. and contrary to your Instruction to him I instructed him not to admit Service on Thomas Blount of this I informed Tom, You could have had no Object in this but to save his Feelings but I who am never regardless of them [6] thought Time might be as essential a Consideration and six Months it surely gives.—I did not but I will write to Haywood by [John] Sitgreaves, who will be here today or tomorrow as he was yesterday at Blount Hall and desire him to have the Alias against Tom issued blank as to the County as perhaps it may be the best to have it excuted in Pitt or Beaufort where the Friendship of the Sheriffs for the Family may be relied on and where Reading and myself may be his Bail—Sitgreaves will meet Haywood at Halifax.—At Hillsboro⁹². where many Speculators on Certificates for Auditors they gave 5/ in the pound, paper Interest not counted before new coined [*sic*] after 3/8 for Principal and 1/4 for the Interest Certificate I heard Matthew Locke⁹² offer five thousand pounds at 4/ the Interest to be counted and did not get it, he put them and many more into

⁹²Matthew Locke who lived in Rowan County. He was recognized in the Regulators movement—an uprising of the frontiersmen against the government which they claimed was administered for the benefit of the people of the coastal area—and later served in the Assembly and in Congress. (Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 384.) This letter gives a good illustration of the effect of the assumption proposal upon local interest in the purchase of certificates.

the Office and notwithstanding the Number of Speculators almost every Body put the Auditors Certificates into the office. The Halifax Military Ones were bought up to 5 hard in the pound & seemed [7] to be sought after with great Avidity much more than the Auditors—One Bourke at Hillsboro^s agreed with Duncan Moore for 8000 £ Certificates at 5/ in the pound hard Moore [money, sic] asserting they were Military, Burke I believe purchased for several of the Speculators and when they were to be delivered those interested (I suppose) chose to be present to see the quality and they proved to be Warrenton ones those that Smith had of Blackledge put in Moores Hands by Smith—Burke refused to take them and all the Speculators declared to M^r. Moore they did not purchase those Certificates at all, tho by the by, I found that was not true because I know that one of them had sold by his Friend at Philadelphia £7000 of them on the 20th March at 4/8 in the pound and tho' it might be true that some of them would not purchase that quality that others had unsuspected persons engaged in the Business while they publicly decryed them. [8] those that were sold had been purchased of H. Montfort by a M^r. Pleasants at 2/—Smith offered not absolutely but in such Manner as I knew he would if he found me disposed to give, the Bargain he made with Blackledge provided I would take his Entries off his Hands—If I had been sure Williamson's plan of Congress purchasing all the Lands West of the Tennessee would have taken place I would have struck with him and if that plan Should succeed I think yet a good Speculation may be had on him to take them off his Hands and good Bargains May be made with Coor, Haslin & others who are sick of their Lands and this will be a good Way to Speculate on Certificates. for if the plan takes place [,] the Certificates given for those Lands will be continental whether the State Debts are assumed or not.—The Tryal between Smith and Armstrong did not come on[,] he had threatened the Throwing of it into Chancery and Armstrong informed me did actually apply to [William R.] Davie to draw the Bill [9] but Armstrong had previously engaged him and the Attorney General I suppose with propriety could not—Smith's Warrants have long since been issued by his Order.—

I gave out generally that I had actually purchased of Donelson more Lands this would serve to show that I was not gorged with Lands that I yet thought Land a good Speculation and our

Friend Thomas Person⁹³ with whom I appeared to be high in esteem declared he would purchase a little more also and I believe did and Donelson is about to sell 100,000 Acres Warrants to Colonel Callaway all to be located West of the Tennessee

By Colonel Glasgow's Servant I wrote to Ben Sheppard either to come down tomorrow or to send down to me all the Certificates he has in hand to the end that Arrangements may be made by the Tuesdays post for selling them to the North letting him know at what price they have been sold—When the Nails for Glasgow & Brooks came up Ogden was at Blount Hall where he yet is [.] Mrs. Grainger [10] received them [nails] some of them wrapted in paper and a quantity loose and when Glasgow's Servant applyed I was at a loss, [to know] which were intended for him but I at length determined to send him all except those wrapted in the paper and did Send them, you will charge him accordingly.—

W^m. BLOUNT

I did not ask for the Use of any Mony as you expected probably and as I intended our Frind mentioned to me the Conduct of Billy White to whom he had advanced some Mony to extricate him from Barr in Such Terms as determined me from Applications—He is much displeased with White and, Mortified that his Conduct has been such as has forfeited that good Opinion which he with pleasure before cherished after geting the Advance he declined to continue in the Office as a Clerk but must & would return home & Bright then was applyed to, to take his place

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Mr. Baldwin

Hugh Houston⁹⁴ to John Gray Blount

[GRENADA, April 19, 1790]

Mr. Blount

Sir I take this oportunity to aquaint you of our Safe arivel hear after a pashage of Eighteen days and I belive to a tollerable good market after Giving the Veshel a Considerable Repairs that

⁹³Probably Thomas W. Pearson of New Bern.

⁹⁴See reference to Houston in Henry Ross to John Gray Blount, Grenada, April 23, 1790, page 47, below.

is in the Rigger [.] Cap^t. Ross has taken a freight for newyork[.] his freight will amount to three hundred and Sixty Dollors he intends to leave the greatest part of his Cargo here behind untill he Returns which will be immediately as he informs me and at the Same time wishes me to Continue with him But before we Can Complete our Voyage to newyork and Return here again it will Be the latter End of July or the first of August. I cannot think of Staying in the Schooner as my family may be in want of Several necessaries [necessaries] that my absence may be a hurt to my Self on the account of Yardons affaire against the Estat[e] at the Sametime if you would wish me to Continue in the Schooner untill She arrives in Caralina I wish you would acquaint me as I Expect this will Come to hand in Time to have an answer in Newyork at the Sametime Mr. Blount I hope you will let Mrs. Houston have what little Necessaries [necessaries] as She may want and if in Case that Jordon has obtained a Judgment against the Estate I hope you will note [not] See any property Sacrifice as you know Every Circumstance of the matter I Depend on you entirely [entirely]—Should forward you and Account of the Sales of the Cargo but no Doubt Cap^t. Ross will forward that by the Same opportunity

I am Sir Your Most ob^d. Humble Ser^t.

HUGH HOUSTON

Grenada Apryl 19th. 1790.

P.S. if in Case you Should meet with an opportunity to write to newyork immediately after the Rec^t. of this Direct [direct] to the Care of Mess^{rs}. Robert & Potter Bruce Merchants there as the freight is Consined to them H. H

Addressed: Mr. J. G. Blount
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

*George Nicolson to John Gray Blount⁹⁵*OCACOCK BAR 22nd April 1790D^r Sir

I arrived here on Monday & found the Ship had just got to her Moorings, She began immediately to take in, but it has constantly blown a gale ever since, which has retarded the discharge of the Lighters [.] Causey will be discharged in a few hours, old Lewis is discharged, he has not made any claim for demurrage—the Ship is now about half loaded & I have when Hammond arrives enough to load her having purchased 250 bbls [of corn] in a small Vessel which came down for Stewarts Schooners the General Green, She having sprung a leak & cannot proceed upon her Voyage—I shall not want the 200 bbls at Mattamuskeete, you will therefore provide a Vessel to take it to Philadelphia, in this there is no time to be lost

I have also purchased 250 bbls from old Lewis & Chartered his Sloop to proceed on to Philadelphia with it—I have in closed you the Bills & also a copy [of] the agreement, the Bills you will endorse & send over to M^r Neal to whom I have wrote to see the Cargo put on board & to have the Bills Lading signed, you will fill up the Bills Loading & send them to him with a Letter for M^r Tyson, this Corn I have given 14/P Cur^y P bbl as well as the 250 bbls now here

Barney by some unaccountable delay never got down till [2] Tuesday, he went out yesterday with a fine Breeze—I hope the Sloop will be down from Roanoke to day or tomorrow, what detains Rhodes's Brigg [?]

Cap^t. Cox wishes you woud send down 25 lb or 30^{dy} [penny] & 20^{dy} Nails say 12½ lb of e@ [each]. by very first conveyance as part of the Spar deck must be laid & I cant get up before 'tis done, if the weather proves good the Ship will be loaded by Tuesday—I am sorry for the detention of Causey but every thing has been done to discharge him. except his own activity which I have not the highest opinion of & he seems averse to going to the North Countys—

M^r Stewart has not come down—I find he has sent down only 1130 bbls Corn, if he shoud be at Washington pay him £250 & I will settle the balance when I come up

⁹⁵This letter gives a good description of the method by which a vessel was loaded. It also shows something of the promotion of John Gray Blount and George Nicolson's corn speculation, mentioned on page 6ⁿ. 18, above.

advise Mr. Tyson of the sailing of Lewis by Post—& push forward all the Corn that has been purchased without loss of time, this infernal place will keep me here too long, & the Vessels that arrive here are sometimes detained 10 days before they get out [.] Barr only sailed on Monday—neither Pittman nor the Sloop with Staves has arrived here yet—I am with great esteem

D^r Sir

Your mo: ob Serv

GEO: NICOLSON

PS. Cap^t. Cox desires you will send down with the Nails 10 bush^l Meal—G.N. [3] PS. you will observe that Cap^t. Lewis is to be discharged in 6 days after his arrival at Philadelphia have the Bills Loading filled up accordingly & express the bush^l. to contain thirty six wine quarts—

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Merchant

Washington

Henry Ross to John Gray Blount⁹⁶

GRENADA Apryl 23^d. 1790

Mr. Blount

Sir after a pashag of Eighteen days I arived hear where I have Sold my Cargo to a tollerable Good market I met with very Bad weather of [off] the Coast and being So Deep I [it, sic] Carried away all most all my Shroud on Board which I have been oblided to Replace with new at as Reasonable a Reat [rate] as posible you may depend after putting the Veshel to Rights I have taken in a freight for new york and will Sail in two Days [.] I have left the Retturns of Cargo hear all to the outfits and Port Charges untill my Retturn but if you Should want the Veshel for any particular Voyage pleas advice me imediatly to new york as I Expect that this will Come to hand in time to Receive and answer by the time I Shall arive in Newyork But Should I not hear from you I Shall take in a freight for this Place Should it offer if not with what I have on

⁹⁶This is a good illustration of the broad liberty which a trusted supercargo might exercise. Ross also probably included some "adventure" of goods of his own in his cargo and from trading with this, he might increase his own wealth—apart from that of his employer.

Board and the fright [freight] which is to be payed in Newyork Shall take in a Cargo Sutable for this place Should I hear from you in Newyork. and you Should wish me to Retturn hear for what I am leaving behind pleas lete me know what produce will answer Best at the Seas [season] of the Year that I Can be in Carolina which I Expect will be about the first of agust [.] if in Case you Should wish for Salt you Can lete me know by the way of St. Eustatia [.] Derict [Direct] to the Care of M^r. Huffy Merchant there where I can proceed to St. martins or Anguill[a] or what Ever place I Can find it most Reasonablest—

No Doubt M^r. Blount my long Stay from your quarter that my frinds may think me Deserted intirly [.] But belive me Sir that you will See me as Soon as posible and I hop to your Satisfaction you no Doubt would think it Strang of my Drawing a bill for 90 £ in favour of Martin Shout whom I was oblidge to discharge for particular Reasons that is from his frequent threats and his insolance and the money being justly Due to him I had no other Recours to Gete Clear of him—turn over

[2] therefor if you Cane Compromise matters with him and the Jordons that is John upon as Easy terms as possible at my Return I am in hops that it will be in my power to Make you Every Amends—M^r. Houston Whom is now on Board and perfectly Satisfyed only on Account of the Voyage will be So long that he wishes to go hom and talkes of leaving me at Newyork as he is afraied that John Jordon will take Some Advantage in his absence[,] there fore I Could wish you would write to him also by the way of newyork and State Every matter to him as he informs me that you know Every Sircumstance of his affairs and he Depends inteirly on your frendship.—

I have now on Board 90 punchons of Rum on freight at the Reat [rate] of four Dollors P^r. punchon which will make three Hundred and Sixty Dollors I thought it much better to take that than to Retturn with the Small Cargo that I Could Expect to bring there fore I hope it will me [meet] with your Aproabation as what I left behind hear it is in the hands of the first merchant

in this island[.] the Contents of this you will pleas keep to your
Self and Cap^t. Roads[.] the Sale of my Cargo as undear neath
Your Most Obedient Hu^l Ser^t.

HENRY ROSS

Staves 20 Dollors
Scantling 20 D^o.
Singles—4 D^o.
Tar—3—

Addressed: Mr. J. G. Blount
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

William Blount to John Gray Blount

—————, Sunday Morning
[April 25 (*sic*), 1790]

The within are the Certificates receved from Ben Sheppard in which he is half interested consequently must be so in any sale whether of a part or the whole—I know not what to advise but I yet incline to think the Bill will pass the [Congress, *sic*] [Benjamin] Hawkins says the Knowing ones say it will not.—Have a Correct list made of them for I have none and its two to one Sheppard has not—I shall expect to see you on Monday and Reading too but I fear the Negroes cannot be Satisfactorily divided—Sharpe by my Direction[,] supposing you would not get Time to attend to the Division⁹⁷ this Spring[,] has pitched a fine Crop for all the Hands and is driving on well & there's debts to pay & outfits &c—

W^m BLOUNT

[On the back of a note from Ben Shepperd, Apr. 25 1790, Contontnea (Contentnea) in which he says that he is enclosing £3000 currency.]

⁹⁷He is referring to Jacob Blount's estate which had not been divided among his heirs.

*Stuart & Barr⁹⁸ to John Gray & Thomas Blount*PHILAD^a. April 27. 1790Mess John G & Tho^s. Blount

Dear Sirs

We have duly receiv'd your favor of 13th Ins^t. by Cap^t. Barry with our Acct^s. inclosed, your order shall be attended to and the Goods sent if possible by him, if they can be got ready. Nicholson's Bill is accepted. This will be handed you by Cap^t. Carhart who we have sent back agreeable to promise, please give her all the dispatch in your power, see that the Navel Stores are put in good order, that they may not loose much, we have engaged the next load at the same price we have sold the Stores we had in the Sloop Viz Tar@ 11/3 Pitch @ 17/6 if it can be got here in time, the Balance due us being small; can you give her another load as we wish to close the Acct^s. If the Spirits of Turpentine arrive in time, before the demand is over we shall be able to manage the mistake

We are greatly disappointed by the Whites,⁹⁹ pray urge them when you see them, to do something [2] for us, The North Carolina Certificates will sell for no price, the bubble appears to be over in that way. Please urge Tho^s. Blackledge to pay of [off] the Note he gave me, Turpentine is now in great demand & none at Market, The British have declar'd it free to go to England, If your Still was going it would be of advantage to you, our JB had a fine Passage home, & has sent your Son Tommy Easops Fables to read at School & a Small Book for John, Please forward the inclosed to M^{rs}. Harvey, our Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount. We are with Respect

Your Hble Serv^{ts}.

STUART & BARR

Wheate13/ to 13/6
 Indian Corn 5/ to 5/6
 Tar 11/3 Pitch 17/6
 Turpentine22/6 to 25 Scarce

⁹⁸Stuart and Barr, merchants and shippers of Philadelphia. The Blounts probably did more business with them than with any other firm.

⁹⁹They had been trying to get a settlement with the Whites of Kinston since the summer of 1787. See James Barr to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1787, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 315-316.

The acts [accounts] from France say Whete [wheat] is fell[.] flower at 34 Livrs[.] Wheat 8 Livrs the Winchester Bushel— [2150.42 Cubic inches—an old standard English measure].

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thos. Blount
Merchts.
Washington

Hon'd. by
Capt. Carhart

Abbridgton Harvey¹⁰⁰ to John Gray Blount

PERQUIMANS May 2th 1790

Dear Sir

As my Sister Lucy has made choise of me [as] her Guardian our last Court appointed Audittors to Audite your Accounts[.] you will much Oblige me by appointing some time between this & our Next Court (which Will be the Second Monday in July) to meet in this County that we may have a Settlement I should not insist on it at this time but am Oblige to advance Mony for her which I cannot well spare[.] I am Extreemly sorry my Sister Polly was so unhappy at her Chusing a Guardian[.] I can assure you it was not from disrespect for either of you[.] her only reason was she prefered living with my Mother[.] General Skinner William White & Francis Newby were the Men that were appointed to Audite your Accounts[.] Men of unblemished [2] Characters who I am Certain will do us both Justice[.] you will please write me by the first Opportunity when you can come in also please Rember me to my Brother Augustus & his Lady also to Sister Polly with your Family & am

Sir W^h much Esteem

Y^r. Hum^l Ser^t

ABBRIDGTON HARVEY

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

¹⁰⁰John Gray had been guardian for Lucy Harvey, who was the half sister of John Gray's wife. She later married John Gray's brother, Major Reading Blount.

William Robinson¹⁰¹ to John Gray Blount

POINT PETER [Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe] May 3^d. 1790
Mr. John Gray Blount

Sir.—these by Mr Prescott¹⁰² will serve to accuaint you of our Arival heair after a Tedus Passage of Twenty Three days with Hard Gails of wind the Vessail Springing a Leek, which acationed us to heave part of the deck Loade over Board for the Presevation of the Vessail and Cargo—I have Just had the Pleasure of Seaing M^r Mey and he has Accept^d. the Bills and Promises payment by the Time [I am ready to go] he has this Instant left this place for Bastur [Basse-Terre] Guardalupa—or I Should In-deavoured to Ship^d you som—Rum by M^r Prescott but he Sails befour M^r Mey Returns I think that theair [there is] not the least Dought but the Bills will be duley Hounourd[.] he thinks his Vessail ought to have the Preference of the Freight[.] we have very Bad Times heare[.] Lumber is not worth any thing and no money to be had[.] I exspect we Shall Sail in Eighteen or Twenty days at most from this for Carolina I have nothing mour to Edd but am

Sir. your most Obedent

SER^t W^m. ROBINSON

[2]

Prices Current

Boards—120 Livers

Scantling—110

Shingles—20

Corn—16 p^r Barrell

Rum—2^s-6^d-Gall

Sugar from 38 to 42

Coffe—1^s-4^d

Molasses—1 - 3 Gall—

PS we have Liberty to take one third of our Cargos a way in Sugar Cotton or Coffe

W^m. ROBINSON

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

Per Favour Mr. Prescott

¹⁰¹William Robinson served as a supercargo for the Blounts.

¹⁰²Captain J. W. Prescott who was often employed by the Blounts to serve as a supercargo.

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 5th May 1790

D^r Sir

Since I wrote you last I have receiv'd two of your favors, the first by M^r. Arnett, second by Cap^t. Terrell, enclosing 1200 drs Loan Office Certificates, which prov'd to be the best remittance I have had, the sales netted me within a trifle of 10/ to the Dollar, and would on this day be worth more, The consequence of the assumption of the State debts not taking place, is already experienc'd in the rise of Continental Securities, they are now at 8/ in the pound for principal & 6/3 for Interest,—State paper has fallen from 6/ to 3/. & is in no demand, but this business, I mean the assumption is not yet done with in my opinion, nor do I believe it ever will until the measure takes place[,] the party in favor of it are not be beaten out of the track and if it takes them seven years to effect their purpose they will persevere to the end and this for the best of all possible reasons, if fame does [2] does not belye them, however the Speculators are bit in the first instance, and I am pleas'd, because they took Such unfair advantages, but I am oppos'd to the assumption on other principles one of which is that it would have operated to the Manifest injury of our State, unless a Credit had been allow'd for the Certificates She had redeem'd, of which there was not the least prospect—The purchasers of the Warren emission of Certificates must lose, unless they have the Key to distinguish the good from the evil, & that Key could not be obtain'd except from a Public Office here, it has been Suggested that a list compleat, as well of the Off^{er} & Soldiers entitled to depreciation, as of those entitled to 4 mo. pay in Specie for Service in 83, has found its way among you & that it is in the hands of the man who said he saw plain truth in N York, I wish you could find out the plain truth of [3] of this matter & let me know, Miner is not yet arriv'd nor have I yet heard from M^r. Barr, but am at present in Cash sufficient to serve me until reliev'd by one or the other, —

M^r. Tho^s. W. Pearson at the ensuing Superior Court will obtain a judgment against me on my note to Cap^t Howell, I beg you will take measures to prevent the execution being Sent here, by paying it off out of my next advance of Salory for which you have an order enclos'd, I have also drawn on you in favor

of Mr Josiah Collins¹⁰³ for £35:9:10, advanc'd me here & these sums are all I can possibly pay until the fall, the balance therefore please negotiate for me as usual & remit—Mr Ramsay has at last sold the Tob^o. at 3 mo. for 25/. due in July, Rice yet on hand—pray what has become of Reilly, have you ever Secur'd my 30 Dollars? I fear not, as you have ever been Silent on that [4] that head, I beg leave to congratulate you on the accession of another female¹⁰⁴ to your family & the pleasing prospect of Mr^s. Blount's happy recovery, to whom please make my compliments.

[Silas, sic] Arnett will be hard run, but I think his prospect as favorable as any who have apply'd for the federal attorneyship and I am in hopes he will Succeed, enclos'd is a price current, I Send you some papers & for the present conclude as always

D^r Sir Y^{rs}. very ob^t. Ser^t.

A. C. THOMAS

Stuart and Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. May 12th. 1790

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Dear Sir

(2 Coppy)*

We have a British Brig just arriv'd and we want a load of Navel Stores for her, we had Some thoughts of sending her to your address to be loaded but the Cap^t. declines going to Carolina—David Shoemaker says he could furnish the quantity of Tar we want at 7/ this Currency—We Know you can do the business to more advantage than any other man in your place. Upon your receiving this we request you will immediately engage the following Quantity on the best Terms you can, have them Shipped in good order for this place as soon as its in your power, we will pay the freight and you may draw on us at 30 or 60 days sight as fast as you ship the Stores and your Bills

¹⁰³Josiah Collins of Edenton, a prosperous trader and shipper. He was the father-in-law of Jacob Blount, Jr. For a sketch of Collins see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 177n. 30.

¹⁰⁴Patsey Baker Blount was born on March 15, 1790. She was named for the first wife of Thomas Blount. He expressed his appreciation of this friendly act in a letter to John Gray on May 22, 1790. See page 58, below.

* This copy has been chosen instead of the original, which is in the Department of Archives and History, because of the added footnote which does not occur in the original.

shall be duly Honour'd. It will oblige us if you can draw at 60 days but do not let the difference of 30 days prevent your Shipping them, we have sent you a Pr. of Bellows that we purchased at Vendue as we are not able to get the New ones by this conveyance[.] they Cost 55/ or 56/ Cap^t. Rodes [Rhodes] has them any part of either the freight or the purchase you can order us to Credit you for will oblige us. We can send back our Sloop for one load of the Stores if you can complete the purchase. Yours &c

STUART & BARR
T. [turn] over

1000 Barrels Tar
100 d^o Pitch
200 d^o Turpentine

[2] P S. If the Turpentine cant be had add 100 Bls Tar more, you may give with you [at your market] as far as 15/ for the Turpentine.—

PHILAD^a 20th May 1790

Dear Sir—

Since writing the former the Bank has applied to us to know whether we want any money in North Carolina, the [they] offer [us] money now in the Hands of the Custom Houses in your State, Say Humbletons Bills[,] as all the publick mony now pass through the Bank it may be some Convenience for you to have the money in your State If you Can Compleate the Purchase of the Navel Stores we have ordered we are Impatient to hear from you and are with Greate Respect your most Humble

Ser^{ts}

STUART & BARR

John G Blount Esq^r
Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington
Per Capt. Eastwood

*George Nicolson to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND 17th May 1790D^r Sir

I have sent on the Bearer M^r Taylor with the money for M^r Hunter & Col^o Hill for the balance of the Corn which I presume they have delivred—I have also sold a Cargo of Lumber for a Brig which will be round with you about the 1st June as P list inclosed—you will please have it readiness for her by the time she arrives I have sold it at the Cash price with you payable in to W. I. [West Indian] goods here upon her return—I propose this a payment from you on acco^t. of your note & shall give credit for it accordingly & presume it will [be] an agreeable mode of payment—you will please write me by return of the Bearer—the Vessell can carry about half her Cargo over the Swash & will call at the Castle¹⁰⁵ for your orders [2] where to proceed to—her name is the Ann [commanded by] Cap^t. Douglass—you will upon rec^t. of this send down your orders to J [John] Wallace accordingly as she will proceed immediately over the Swash up the River agreeable to the instructions you may send—

I have not heard from M^r Tyson since my last to you[.] the price if Corn still continues 5/3 in Philadelphia, I hope the Corn is all Shipped before this if not hurry it on—the price here is 17/6—I shall be in advance for you in consequence of M^r Blows heavy dft [draft] upon me for Canvas &c by Covell[.] you will please send me on a dft upon M^r Tyson for the 200 dollars which you promised

I am with great esteem

Your mo. ob Se

GEO: NICOLSON

[3] Cargo for Brig Ann

20 M feet Scantling assorted sizes from 4 by 4 to 8 by 8

20 M feet inch board

10 M drawn white Oak Hhd Staves & heading

10 M red Oak D^o

100 M Cypress Shingles

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Mr. Taylor

¹⁰⁵This was the ship supply house, Shell Castle, owned by John Wallace and the Blounts.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 22nd May 1790.

Dear Sir

I am greatly disappointed as to the sale of the Certificates you sent me. It happens that Col: Thomas is intimate with two of the chief Brokers in this Town and he had some Time ago consulting their Safety informed them of the Date of our suppressed Certificates; of this Circumstance I had no Suspicians or Information untill some days ago that [while] I was consulting him about the properest Broker to be employed. He then told me that himself had given such Information as would necessarily prevent a Sale. Mr. S. [Samuel?] Johnston has some Certificates of our State I will see whether he is able to sell them & may possibly contrive some Mode of passing off those of 86. [Warrenton of 1786]

Congress Yesterday in a Committee of the whole fixed the Scale of old Continental Bills @ 100 for one to be funded—Securities are now @ 8/9 at this Rate old Bills are worth in Specie about 1 Dlr for 212. Green's Rec^{ts} are of the Same Value, cannot you buy any at the old Price of 800 for 1 or 700, 6 or 500. Still there would be a Profit. The Speculators as [2] as you may guess by the inclosed are not pleased with N C for her Conduct respecting the Assumption.

The Presidents late Illness has prevented several Bills from being sent up for his Approbation. In the Court Bill for our State I have so managed it as to have all the Courts to sit at Newbern. I hope it will pass without alteration. We lost one Bill by a Heterogenious Tack that was appended to it in the Senate.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount[TARBOROUGH 22^d May 1790]D^r Sir;

Amos Johnston says he considers the bargain he made with Cambreling as void; but that you shall notwithstanding have all

the Corn he has (he supposes 100 Barrels) provided you will take it away in the course of ten days—beyond which time he neither will nor can keep it for any body—He sent you 20 barrels yesterday by Pat. Cranny who told him he would be employed to carry down the remainder for you—there's no Corn in this Neighbourhood for Sale & if there was & I could purchase it, it is not probable that there would be water to get it down in time for the Phil^a. Speculation—Bacon comes in very slowly not because it is scarce; but because the thing wanted for it is money or in Goods, a higher price—the severity of my Sister's illness is over & she has been able for several days past to attend to the Business of her family; but the present state of her health seems to indicate the necessity of a trip to the Sea-side [2] or, an excursion up the Country—one of which steps Doctor Leigh has strongly recommended & I am very desirous she should undertake, but while Julia [Baker] lives she will not consent to either; however that objection cannot much longer exist—a few weeks, at most, must remove it —

The name you have given to your daughter [Patsey Baker], if I am rightly informed on the subject, has made her an Object of my particular affection & if she is not already Christened, I would solicit the happiness of being her God-father—A compliment so delicate & affectionate in its nature & so Soothing in its Effect upon my Mind could not possibly fail of exciting in me the most lively Gratitude—Do me the favor to present to Sister Polly & accept yourself my warmest thanks for it—

Yours—

THO BLOUNT

Tarb^o. 22^d. May 1790.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Mr. Blackledge

Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a 28 May 1790

John G Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

The day Before yesterday your Brig arrivd here from Edenton, & yesterday Captain Tinker ar^d. from NewBern By her

We have Rec^d A [Abner] Neales Letter with Bill of Ladeing for 20 Caskes Spirits Turpentine we have made Enquirey & are in hopes of Getting a Good price for your Spirits, as Greate part of the Retailers are oute we have allso Rec^d your favour Covering Bill of Ladeing for Attkinsons flaxseed, which we shall attend to, it is not yet Landed we are desirious of hearing from you to know if you can furnish the Stores we want, we think it time that our Sloop Should be Returned, Capt Briggs Informs that he met him in sight of your place, Briggs has Been here this 4 days & we Belive there has Been no offer for the Tar, Corn has been as high as 5/3 & has fell to 4/9 yesterday we wrote you Some time ago that we Could furnish you with Bills on your Custom Houses for payment of the Stores We Remain with Greate Esteem yours

STUART & BARR

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

Per Capt. Wordon [sic]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 30th May 1790

Sir,

When I wrote you that I would be down to-day, I foresaw nothing but the indisposition of my Sister that could prevent; but instead of being prevented by her indisposition I am prevented by my own—I had a fit of the Ague & fever on thursday last & another yesterday & to prevent a third I am this day taking Physic—tomorrow I shall begin with the Bark & Tuesday or Wednesday if I should think myself well enough to assist you in the Business you want me for I will come down—Robertson can't go away before that time for the flat that has his Corn is aground 4 Miles below this—my Sister is well enough to be about[.] Gerrard will probably wish to settle with Keais & I have told him long since [2] that you consented to give him Tob^o [Tobacco] for the Pork we borrowed & would pay the balance—if the price he would allow for Tob^o. suited—for your guide in this Business I must inform you that from the account I gave you of the Tob^o. here you will deduct 1764^w first Class paid to Woodman for Iron

&c. [Amos] Johnston was here on Thursday & said he hoped you had sold his Pork to Robenson for Rum, & desired me to tell you if you have not done so that he wishes you to do so—Pork a £5. Rum a 8/. he wants a Barrel of Rum sent up by the Boat you send for the Corn if the Pork is not sold; & if it is two or more—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 1st June 1790

Dear Sir

I have not written you since M^r. Arnett's departure for want of an opportunity, & I would not saddle you with postage because my Letters are not worth it, however I can no longer resist the propensity I have for writing, more especially as I feel myself a little interested in the matter, Miner has not yet arriv'd, who I have been in daily expectation of all the last month, nor has Gardner arrivd from Fyal, M^r. Barr has been silent & our sales in hands of M^r Ramsay are as before related, that put all those things together & you may suppose I am not in Cash, however I am not starving, so I'll not complain especially as I am in Daily hopes that times will mend, I empower'd you by Arnett to receive Warrants for my next Six Months advance from the Governor, & requested you to pay Tho. W. Pearson esq^r. the amount of a Judgment which he would obtain against me, which I hope is Safe to hand, the balance, after paying also an order in favor of M^r. Josiah Collins, I [2] I beg you will vest in Specie & remit as early as convenient or in Something that will command it on better terms than to purchase the coin, I have hitherto been generally behind hand, I wish now to try the reverse, I have Seen opportunities Since I have been here by which I could have [made] nearly Cent P Cent if I had Cash in hand,—Congress have been battling the watch a Second time on the assumption & have a Second time laid it asleep; but its advocates Still persevere, they have reviv'd it a third time & it is Made the order of the day for monday next, I trust it will again be done over, there appears to be a decided Majority of about five against it in the House of representatives, but Sir the matter will never be given

up in my opinion until the object is obtain'd, and if it cannot be done this Session it will be reviv'd next & So on *ad infinitum*, there's Latin for you, but I believe I gave you this opinion before—The Speculators have drawn in their Satellites from abroad, and appear to be considerably in the dumps, I am happy to learn that the decided part our members took [3] took against the measure of assumption has been so generally approv'd by the Citizens of N.C., be assur'd Sir it was a wicked thing & the more I think of it the more I Dislike it—Yesterday the House of representatives resolv'd 38 to 22 to have their next meeting in Philadelphia, the Senate have not yet decided on this point I believe they will go,

The President has been Sick almost unto death¹⁰⁶, but thank God is happily recover'd—Col Bland¹⁰⁷ of Virginia is Dead—Rhode Island adopted the Constitution last Saturday, Majority two—Prices current nearly the Same as when I last Sent them—Continental Securities are [off. buy *sic*] them 9/. & Indents upwards of 7/ in the pound, Old Dollar bills are to be included in the funding System at 75 for 1 Says the house of representatives[.] the Senate may alter but I think [will] not throw it out—a Safe Speculation if there is any left among you—Ashe Says why don't you Send his Tob^o., we compose one Family & live in *Marketfield Street*, alia Petticoat Lane, W:B [William Blount] I flatter myself will be Gov^r. of the Ceded Territory [The Territory South of the River Ohio], Complim^{ts}. to M^{rs}. Blount & Adieu

Yours

A. C. THOMAS

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington

¹⁰⁶This was about the time that Washington had "a case of anthrax so malignant as for several days to threaten mortification . . ." See Paul Leicester Ford, *The True George Washington* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1896), pages 52-53; *The Journal of William Maclay* (New York: Albert and Charles Boni, 1927), pages 258-259.

¹⁰⁷Theodorick Bland, nephew of Richard Bland of earlier fame, was a delegate and representative from Virginia. He died in New York, June 1, 1790 *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949* (United States Government Printing Office, 1950), 895.

Daniel Tyson¹⁰⁸ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILAD^a. 4 June 1790

Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho^s. Blount

Gentlemen

I have your favor 8th May—I have paid your Bill for 105 Doll^s. favor Doct: Loomiss¹⁰⁹ & have paid to Capt: Maxwell the balance due for freight of Eastwoods Cargo as well as the freight by your Brig the Ann

I have forwarded to M^r Nicolson the A [account of] Sales of the Cargo by Capt: Barney, nett proceeds to your joint credit £389.18.8—The Cargo P Capt Eastwood at 5/2, and by Maxwell at 4/6.—Capt Gages' Cargo remains in Store & I have little expectation of effecting the sale to advantage for several weeks to come as there are very large quantities at Market—

The a/ Sales for the whole shipments made by M^r Nicolson & Yourselves shall be forwarded as soon as possible,¹¹⁰ in the mean time it wou'd have been some satisfaction to me as a party interested if you had forwarded me the Invoices of the respective Cargoes

Yrs

DAN TYSON

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thos. Blount

Merchants

Washington

No. Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 7th June 1790.

Dear Sir

Of the Certificates you sent me 13 are dated at Warrenton 1st May 1786. The other 15 have no Date but are said to be issued pursuant to an Act of Assembly passed Dec^r 1785. The first kind are of the lowest Numbers viz from N^o 158. The others begin at N^o 796. These Certificates are doubtless of the same Family

¹⁰⁸No further reference to Daniel Tyson has been found.

¹⁰⁹Dr. Jonathan Loomis was a surgeon of North Carolina. He served in a professional capacity with the Third Regiment of the Continental Line for North Carolina. The Blounts often called on him for professional services. Legislative Papers, 115, House of Commons, December 21, 1792.

¹¹⁰This refers to their speculation in corn. See page 6*a*. 18, above.

but they do not on their face appear equally suspicious. I wrote you that Col. Thomas being on Terms of intimacy with two of the Brokers had, some Time ago, given them the Marks of the condemned Certificates. Of this Circumstance I had not been informed till of late. I think it probable however that those Brokers, Plat and another, may have kept the Information to themselves. Being charged with the public Acco^{ts}. I must be supposed to know the true State of each Certificate, though in fact I have not examined the Books to see how many of them will eventually be good. I think therefore you had best inclose all those Certificates, or the first Class of them if you think fit, to Some Mercantile Correspondent here or in Philad^a. Advising him to sell as he can, paying the Mony for your Acco^t. into the Bank or otherwise as you may think fit. Inclosed for your Information are the Numbers and as you have not the Certificates you may refer to them in the Letter as if they were inclosed. Send the [2] the Letter to me open under Cover and I shall inclose the Certificates and forward the Letter as directed. If you Order the Proceeds to be paid to me to be paid to the Consul of France fo Acco^t of [Richard] Blackledge, so be it, for I have not rec^d. the Bill you mentioned nor other Remittance for his Use. By the Way I think that offering Certificates for Sale which immediately follow one another in N^o bears rather a Suspicious Appearance; perhaps they should be divided as marked

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

P:S; Perhaps it would not be improper to Send Some of the Certificates to be sold in Philad^a. and Some of them to be Sold here.

Jn^o. G. Blount Esqr.

[3] List of Certificates

1st. Class

N ^o *158 .	Peter Wright	L 80: 0: 0
*236 .	Dav ^d Parnall	139:19: 6
*270 .	F. OBryant	139:19: 6
271 .	Sam ^l Bufinton	139:19: 6
272 .	Sam ^l Monroe	139:19: 6
*241 .	Peter Conaly	139:19: 6
242 .	Morris Taylor	139:19: 6
*243 .	Anthony Cheshire	139:19: 6
244 .	Philip Niles	139:19: 6
*193 .	W ^m Sparkman	139:19: 6
194 .	Jonathan Smithier	139:19: 6
195 .	And ^w Skipton	139:19: 6
*196 .	Jos. Scull	139:19: 6
*205 .	Rob ^t . Magby	139:19: 6
*257 .	John Bradsby	139:19: 6
		<hr/> 2029:13:0

2nd. Class

*796 .	Jer: Reynolds	139:18: 6
797 .	Paul Perry	139:18: 6
798 .	John McMurphey	139:18: 6
802 .	Patrick Peal	139:18: 6
803 .	William Filyar	139:18: 6
*804 .	Anthony Williamson	139:18: 6
801 .	Julius Dover	139:18: 6
*832 .	John Woodland	73: 2: 1
914 .	Benj: Maund	139:18: 6
*1377 .	Will ^m Law	152:10: 9
*1940 .	Jonathan Carrell	72:18: 0
1942 .	Emanuel Daniel	139:18: 8
1941 .	Smith Simson	72:18: 0
		<hr/> 3660: 8: 6
		<hr/> 4299: 6: 2

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
 Washington
 Free Hu Williamson

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 15th June 1790

Dear Sir

Having seen the Appointments lately made you will presume that my Mind is relieved from any Anxiety respecting our Western Territory.¹¹¹ The Cession being accepted and Gov^t. established I am now only to consider how the Current of Migration shall best be turned towards the Tennessee Gov^t. that so the Value of our Land may be improved or increased. Lieut. Long at Halifax to whom I sent a Subscription Paper for the Map has sent me no Answer. Your Brother Jacob got none at Edenton[.] from Newbern & Wilmington I have not heard but fear that little is done. Wish nevertheless to publish the Map and Analysis,¹¹² describing the best mode of going to that Country and to whom Application is to be made for Land—For the present general Complaint is that Emigrants when the [they] arrive, Say at Kentucke, cannot find Land, unless perhaps at a very extravagant Price.

I hope that you will agree to serve at least in the next Gen^l. Assembly of our State. You see by late Appointments how many useful Members are removed. Perhaps some disappointed factious Incendiary may, among new Members who are incautious, attempt some Mischief. My Object is if possible to have Justice done the State in settling her Acco^{ts}. An Office is soon to be disposed of in the State, which Col. Thomas wishes to obtain; in this Pursuit he certainly is right, but if he gets that Office, who is to mannage our Accounts? In fact I would rather hold on by the Charge of the public Accounts than give up that Trust for a Seat in next Congress. I hope that in Congress I shall during this Session have served the State essentially on the Head of its Accounts, and that future Occasion for similar Exertion, will not occur. If Thomas goes out¹¹³ I should wish that the State would allow me to employ one Clerk or two @ 500 Dls; for every one of our Accounts must be stated over in a new Mode else we shall lose near one Million of Dlsr under the Head

¹¹¹William Blount was appointed Governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. This appointment was very pleasing to Williamson, not only because of his personal friendship for the Blounts but also because of his investments in western lands.

¹¹²Williamson was working on a map with the description of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. This was the map later published by Matthew Carey at Philadelphia.

¹¹³Williamson and Abishai Thomas were North Carolina's agents to settle the claims of the State growing out of the Revolutionary War.

of Militia Claims. I perceive that every State will have one or more Agents here & they are sending forward Men on whose Steadiness and Abilities they have most Dependence; to be a meer Accountant is not sufficient. If the State employs an Agent incapable of supporting a System, meerly because such Agent may serve cheap, they must be [3] saving units & losing Thousands. The Continental Agents have £900 P Amn: in Specie, we have only £768 in Paper. Under all those Disadvantages I would try to finish the Work. I wrote the Governor that I should keep my Eye steadily on the Accounts of the State though I had accepted a Seat in Congress but should not expect any Pay from the State for any Services I might render while serving in Congress. In fact the Service in Congress is to a Person who takes such Portion of the Burden as I do, a most painful Drudgery, having done what I had much at Heart, I would now retire of Choice provided no twist is given to the other Office. You will neverthe less consider that what I have here said is only intended for your own Information.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

John G Blount Esq^r

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 16th June 1790

D^r. Sir

Despairing of your sending up the Packet,¹¹⁴ I have been obliged by the importunity of M^r Johnston to consent that Jo. Howell may take down the Balance of the Corn bought from him by Cambreling. he goes from here this morning with liberty & intention to take it in—respecting Salt, which Blackledge informed me you wish to have my opinion on, I know not well what to say—at present the quantity in town is considerable, but what the holders of it consider it worth, or intend doing with it, I cannot ascertain—at ¼th of a Dollar P Bush^l. at Washington I would suppose it might answer; but whether it

¹¹⁴The *Packet* was a small vessel which was operated mainly between Washington and Tarboro. The Blounts seem to have owned it as they determined its schedule. See Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 13, 1789. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 472-473.

would be equal to hard Money at that price in New bern, is in my opinion very doubtful: for the advantages of Money of any kind are inconceivably great especially to you who will probably have frequent opportunities of procuring Salt for Lumber &^c. before it will be in much demand[.] with these observations, which contain all [2] the information I am capable of giving you on the subject, I shall leave you to decide upon the question as you may think proper—

The only House we are known to as Merch^s. in Dublin is Mess^{rs}. Joshua & Benj^a. Wilson of Golden Lane—they are quakers & my opinion of them is favorable— At Cork we are known to Mess^{rs}. Penroses' & Fisher, Mr. Reuben Harvey and William Wilcocks (Hammonds Marsh) all good houses; but I would not-withstanding Consign with equal confidence to George Newsome—in point of safety you may send to either, except Wilcocks all are rich—I shall write to Murdock & Browne & send the Letters down by next opportunity¹¹⁵—final Settlements¹¹⁶ are not to be del^d. out by the Treasurer after the 1st. day July next—Haywood¹¹⁷ says you shewed him claims for some at New Bern if so you had better send them up in time—Alderson's claim was not among those you gave to Gerrard—My Sister is better & Julia is not yet dead—Y^{rs}. &^c.

THO. BLOUNT

[3] Deliver the within to D. Jordan—

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Mr. Howell

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENE VILLE June 26th 1790

I thank you for your Congratulations on my Appointment¹¹⁸ and I rejoice at it myself for I think it of great Importance to our Western Speculations yet I foresee it will give me much Trouble for Molsey¹¹⁹ is much distressed about the Prospect of

¹¹⁵Thomas Blount had spent some months in England in 1787. William Murdock was one of his closest friends there. See his letters written from England in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

¹¹⁶Continental certificates issued to soldiers on discharge or furlough. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 863-864.

¹¹⁷John Haywood, treasurer of North Carolina.

¹¹⁸Governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

¹¹⁹William Blount's wife.

my Absence or danger or both[,] but at all Events the duties of so advantageous an Appointment must be attended to as soon as directed by the President and I now begin to be afraid of the Receipt of his Letter lest it should order me off at too early a day—The duties of Governor I should not mind they will be easy enough but those of Superintendent of Indian Affairs will be laborious and disagreeable for I fear it will be next to impossible to keep Peace between the Georgians and Creeks tho Judge Iredle [Iredell]¹²⁰ informed me that 400 Troops had arrived at Savannah from New York while he was there for the Protection of the Georgians and that 800 would have been sent but for a Letter which Gov^r. Tellfair had unfortunately written to some Friend staying [2] at New York in which he had conveyed the Idea that the Danger of the Indians had ceased to exist—This Letter it seems was not an official one but the Contents of it reached the Ears of those in power and stoped Half the Number of the Troops destined for Georgia.—You have no doubt before this thought that I must be at considerable Expence to fit out to take Possession of my Government &c that is I shall want two good Horses, Saddles, Bridles Portmanteau &c Cloathing for myself and Jack and Mony in my Pocket to proceed with and I am without a Copper. On you must be my dependence, for the necessary Supplies and to reimburse you I will give you Bills on whenever my salary is to be paid me which will probably be by the Collectors in this State or at New York so that I wish you to make provision for me to open an Account with me as Governor for such Supplies as I may Want in that Capacity and you shall be reim-bursed out of the first part of salary that shall become due and I suppose the salary will be paid quarterly—To this I suppose [3] you are agreed provided the Supplies are in your power—Then I will tell you how to raise them I think *certain* send and pay Major Daves the Mony we borrowed of him and take up our Note, I will then again apply to him for as much Mony as will fit me out and draw an Order on you to repay him out of my Salary, he will let me have it I am sure for Mony is as good to him at any Time before the Assembly sets as now and *again* the Certificate in my Name will raise about an hundred pounds by exchanging it at the Treasury—If you approve of this Plan with Respect to Major Daves let Coxe¹²¹ draw an Order

¹²⁰See page 15n. 44, above.

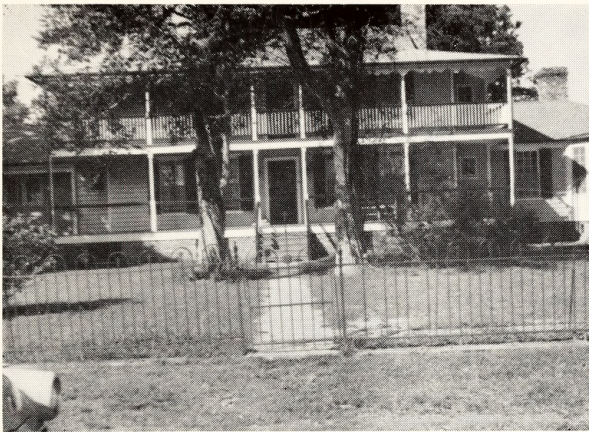
¹²¹Cox Coart who had been an apprentice of the Blounts and appears to have continued as an office worker. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 87, 88n. 60.

on you in his favour for two hundred pounds payable about the 20th October and do you accept it, then send it to me and I will sign it and send Willie [Blount] to him with a Letter to get the Mony for it and to the end that this Loan may be effected you had best direct and enable [Abner] Neale to lift our Note without delay.—At present it strikes me that I had best put Mony in the Hands of Major [Charles] Gerrard who I suppose I could engage to [go] up into Warren &c and purchase me a Couple [4] [of horses] I believe he is a good Judge and I have long been taught to believe that good Horses are to be had cheap in that quarter—Faircloth is so poor that he cannot possibly be got in Order—Saddles and Bridles, Halters &c I will write by Willie to get made by Little but a good new large, strong Portmanteau I should like to get from Philadelphia if you have an *immediate* Opportunity—As for Cloaths for myself I shall want but little and that I believe I can get here for Orders on you at a proper Period and perhaps you may have some strong Remnants on hand that may do for Jack if not I can get them here or at Tarboro^e. he must have every rag new—And I wish by Willie to make another Effort to close the Land Business with Wilson Blount and at all Events to make him a Tender of the Number of Acres to which he is entitled from the Tenor of my Receipt to effect this I would be glad that you would make [have] Coxe in his best hand Writing make Extracts of the descriptive Part of each Grant, giving the Number of each. heading the List of Extracts with this Caption namely [5] “Extracts from Patents on Parchment containing Thousand Acres”

I think with such a Caption and List of Extracts I can write him such a Letter as will induce him to make a Choice—If I recollect there's too Bodies of 13;000 each in 1000 Acre Tracts joining each other if he would be tempted to make his Choice and to get up my Receipt if there are two I would agree that he should take one of them and if there is only one I would not wish it to be included in the Extract for Blackledge has told me that Jones is to have four thousand Acres out of that Body and I mean to convey 1000 of it to Blount Hawkins DeLaforest and the other 8000 would probably sell just now either in the Hands of Jones's Agent at Philadelphia or of ours at Newyork at from 1/ to 2/per Acre—It would cost Nothing to make the Experiment and I am the more inclined to suppose it would be successful because I have lately seen published in the Museum Williamson's

Estimate of the Value of the Cession made by North [6] Carolina to Congress in which the Land is estimated at 4/ Specie, these Lands are new at Market and that Jones actually paid 2/per Acre for a part will be in favour the part which he shall have to offer add to this the Government being in the Hands of Congress—I say I have seen Williamson's Estimate I suppose it to be his for I know not who else could give it.—To tempt Wilson Blount it will not be sufficient to shew him by the Extracts that 13 Grants join each other but it will be necessary to that he should see a handsome Plate of them which you can make and if there is a Stream of Water runs through them of any kind make it larger and handsomer

Blackledge informed me that you looked for these Plates of 13000 Acres that you could not find them and that you supposed I had them—I surely never had.—It may be as well that you draw the Order on Daves for three hundred pounds, I suppose he can as well spare that Sum as any other and if I have not use for it you may. and the Exchange of the Certificate will pay 100£ into the Treasury for him and a Receipt can be taken accordingly and delivered him which will be Cash to him.—The Interest on this Certificate will be considerable, several hundreds and I suppose [7] it probable that the Certificate Tax will this year be principally paid to the Sheriffs in Mony at 4/ in the pound and if this should be the Case with your Sheriff your Interest Certificate will answer his purpose as well as the Mony hence if he has Mony he will give you 4/ in the pound for your Interest Certificate—If the Writ is served on Tom. Blount send up the Bail Bond let me sign it here.—As soon as your New Brig is off hand I presume you will be as much at leisure as you will be at any Time to attend to the Division of my father's Estate all parties seem anxious for it and it ought to be done before I go hence, pray fix the Time and let me know when by Mr. Ogden as early as possible, do you inform Jacob and Reading and I will inform Mr^s. Harvey and Tom and if necessary Send a Canoe for them beside this Business which ought not to be delayed I wish to see you and talk much, but you had best fix this day so distant as that Willie may have Time to visit Wilson Blount before you come because if he makes his Choice you and Tom can then in due form execute Titles to him.—When you come up pray arrange your affairs in such Manner as not to be so hurried as [8] you commonly are—If you do not think it best to take as



Courtesy of Mrs. Frederick Drane

HOME OF JOSIAH COLLINS, SR.
EDENTON

The daughter of Josiah Collins, Nancy, married Jacob Blount, Jr. There are many references to Collins in this volume of the John Gray Blount Papers. He was active in shipping, land speculation, and manufacturing. He and his son, Josiah Jr., had probably the most important rope factory in North Carolina. This was located at Edenton.

much Salt as have advised from M^c.Kinly perhaps he would that is M^c. Farling would let you have other West India Articles at Cash Price but really I did not ask him and if you take Salt I have no doubt but Tom. Turner would give you Rum for a part of it, he has just now a great Run of Tobacco for Rum and I believe has no Salt on hand and You know every Waggon wants more or less Salt—I have known him several Times exchange with Simpson Rum for Salt.—I wish you to take the Amount of the Lot or near as may be from M^c. Farling for M^c.Kinly and myself have other Accounts unsettled and if you give any Receipts I wish them to express in part pay for such a Lot for M^c.Kinly and I agreed in Case I took Goods that for so much the Lot should be rated at £10 hard [money] or £15 paper and after that he agreed I should have Salt at 2/ hard—I shall insist that Salt is Goods and that the Lot must be rated at £10. but I believe in his offer at 2/ he did not so understand it—If you receive a large quantity at a Time I think you had best have some careful hand at the Business for if M^c.Farling should [9] Should attend the Measuring of it he is quite too cunning for your Interest and if young Good who is Apprentice to M^c.Kinly should measure it which is very probable then a knowing hand on your part may be sure to get *good Measure*—Having such a quantity of Salt on hand I suppose it probable that you may think of sending a part of it here and some Time past you had thought of M^r. Ogden I would not wish you to speak to him on the Subject at least untill you come up. In the first place I think he would not answer your purpose and in the next I entertain Thoughts of taking him with me to the Westward but this I have not yet hinted to him.—Blackledges Stores are now empty and I should suppose a careful person with about 1000 Bushels Salt a few Nails, Rum &c fixed in it early in the Fall might pick up a good deal of Corn &c by the Spring, tho of this you are the best Judge—Let me know if you suppose you can get the Portmanteau from Philadelphia or whether I must depend on Little for it also.—M^r. Ogden will wait your answer but the sooner the better for [10] the sooner he returns the sooner I will get Willie off to Daves and Wilson Blounts and I fear I have no Time to spare—I owe M^c.Kim about forty pouns £15 is Abner Nash's and which Witherspoon has repeatedly promised me he would pay from Time to Time[.] I have now left an Order [in] Neale's Hands to collect that and more and I will draw for it by Willie or

Witherspoon as the Case may be if Convenient I wish you would settle £40 with him and I will pay you, the £15 as early as I can get it and I really believe I shall get that sum by Willie—I have really dunned Witherspoon harder than I have done a Thing of the kind before—He is quite sore of it.—

I have supplied Col. Glasgow with 15 lb Coffee and Blount Hall with 5 lb please charge it in your Books especially to Glasgow for I have no Acc^t. with him and you may send me a like quantity by the first Conveyance.—

If you think of any better Plans let me hear them—

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Mr. Ogden

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 27th June 1790

D^r Sir

A few days past arrived here from your place Doctor Osborne who contributed much to my happiness by informing that Miner had not yet Sail'd, as I began to be apprehensive he had made a visit to David Jones,¹²² if he has not Sail'd prior to your receipt of this pray push him, *my money is once more exhausted*, Capⁿ. Gardner has not arriv'd from Fuall and M^r. Barr has not deign'd to let me hear from him, I really begin to be out of patience with him and shall take the liberty of telling him so with some additions by tomorrow's post—The Southern Legislators are laboring to remove Congress¹²³ and I believe will effect it, the Pennsylvania members have offered to join in giving the permanent residence to the Patowmac at the end of ten years if Philadelphia may have the temporary until that time, there will be a nice question in Senate where the bill [2] bill originated & is to be acted upon tomorrow, if carried there, the general opinion appears to be that it will obtain by a considerable majority in the House of representatives—The bill for funding the domestic debt is considerably alter'd by the Senate, they have Struck out the alternatives of Land &c. as proposed by the House and say the whole shall be funded at

¹²²Davy Jones, the sailors' devil. A term used to designate the spirit of the sea and the basis of the term "Davy Jones' locker."

¹²³The southerners wanted to move the capital further south.

4 PC^t. including Indents, old Continental Money is to be funded at 100 for 1, pray inform Gerrard of this as I wrote him some time since that it was to be at 75, this bill is now hung up waiting for the house to provide ways & means, the excise bill which was for that purpose being lost—The post office bill proposes the route through N. C. to be by Halifax Tarboro Smithfield Fayet Haley's Ferry &c. & to have Cross posts from Petersburg on the old line to Edenton, From Tarbor^o. through Greenville & Washington to New Bern & from Fayette to Wilmington, I take it one of our Senators will oppose it,¹²⁴ [3] The assumptionists have not yet relinquished their cause but I trust they lose ground—State Securities are worth 4/4 to 4/6 on the face, Continentals 9/ Indents 7/, produce much the same as when I wrote you last—this being Sunday I cannot particularize—Great Britain & Spain are in a fair way to come to blows, a packett arrived day before yesterday from the Havannah Armed & full man'd, the British packett here is Arming also—

I have nothing to add but my best [Compli]ments to M^{rs}. Blount & remain

D^r Sir

Y^r. very ob^t Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

direct in future to Marketfield Street. I inclose some papers

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Merchant

Washington

Capt. Houston

John Gray & Thomas Blount to [Edward Forbes]¹²⁵

WASHINGTON N^o. CAROLINA June 29th. 1790

Sir

This will be delivered you by Captain [William] M^cDaniel who commands our Brigantine the Russel, which has on board

¹²⁴The two Senators from North Carolina were Samuel Johnston and Benjamin Hawkins. This letter probably refers to Johnston who lived in Chowan County which would not be benefitted by the new routes.

¹²⁵See Edward Forbes to John Gray and Thomas Blount, September 6, 1790, page 108, below. This letter reveals the long-range and bold planning of the Blounts, who were attempting to make their land speculation and shipping complement each other. If they could sell their cargoes in Europe and on the return trip transport passengers to North Carolina, they would thus make a double profit. A similar scheme was tried with the French, but the coming of the French Revolution broke up the experiment. This was either a duplicate or a letter which was never mailed. The scheme and the wording probably came from William Blount, but the postscript is in John Gray's handwriting.

principally freight for Dublin with leave to touch and try your Markets; Should the Freighter find it his interest to sell there, we have taken the liberty to direct our Captain to deliver this, and put himself under your direction and protection, And we wish you to take such measures as will best secure safety and dispatch the Vessel. The Captain will deliver you a Copy of his bills of Lading for your Government, and we shall expect not to have our Vessel detained longer than is customary in such cases in delivering her Cargo.

When the freight is received you will please to pay into the Hands of Captain M^cDaniel two Hundred pounds Sterling to be by him Accounted for with us.

On the Arrival of the Vessel we wish you to Advertise for freight or Passengers to this place, And as an inducement to People to come we will engage to let to lease one [2] one to two Hundred Acres of wood Land of a good quality to each Passenger for seven years free of Rent except a small Land Tax of about 4/. P Annum, And we will engage to deliver to each Master of a Family that pays you one Guinea there for our use one Cow and Calf here on the Land we let him; We will let out three thousand Acres of Land we have in one body on them terms, which lies near plenty of Fish & Oysters to be caught at all times, We shall expect the same passage Money as is going to others and to be paid there except some few that their Friends here have promised to pay for; Captain M^c. Daniel has directions about them.

If there are any who wish to go to our new Country West of the Appelachean Mountain ours is the nearest Port on the Continent to the finest Country in the World; from this place there is good and cheap Waggon Road to the Holston River where it is Navigable and now settling fast[,] the Lands are equal in quality to any yet discovered in America and for about half-a-dollar P Acre a man may suit himself with what he wants and twenty Guineas laid out with you in suitable Articles would convey five Families to the spot and when within twenty Miles of them [3] Lands provisions are cheaper than in any part of the Continent, and nothing but People are wanted to make it one of the first Countries in America the Land in general will produce from 60 to 100 bushels of Grain P Acre.—

We would much prefer the Vessels returning immediately to this place, but if freight and passage can be had to any other Port of the United States that shall exceed what offers to this as much as One hundred Sterling we have no objection to taking of it, or any other freight that may offer that the Captain shall approve. We intend if we find it will answer to keep the Russel running at least once a year to Ireland shall therefore be much obliged by any information you can give as of what will best answer. Our Country abounds with all sorts of Lumber that any part of the Continent affords and we have of Naval Stores in abundance; we have sent a few flooring plank such as we use here which are measured and Marked Superficial Measure; if it will not be too much trouble shall be much obliged by your taking some pains to know to a certainty what such will command P.M. [per thousand] as then we can judge if they will answer to Ship when we fail in freight. We wish the Brig not detained there at any rate [4] rate more than Thirty days unless a certainty of freight or passengers to Amount of more than one Hundred pounds Sterling and not a day longer than can be avoided on an uncertainty.

You will please Transmit twenty Guineas to Mess^{rs}. Forrest Stodderd & Murdock, Merchants N^o. 8. Crutchet Friars, London for our Account. The balance of freight and passage Money if any after laying in proper Stores you will please remit agreeable to our Memerandom herewith as also the Neat Sales of some Turpentine which Captain M^cDaniel will deliver you to be sold for our Account. As the Vessel was Loaded with Naval Stores we have put on board one Cask of Spirits of Turpentine which if not used and it can be Lawfully imported, you will also dispose of, but if it cannot be lawfully imported, by no means run any risque with it, but direct the Captain the proper steps to be taken with it. We will thank you to advise us of the Russells Arrival with you the first opportunity to this Continent.

And we are with tender of Services

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servants.

J. G. & THO. BLOUNT

P. S. We forgot to request that you would give immediate notice of the Russells arrival to Mess^{rs}. Forrest Stodderd & Murdock of London that they might perhaps save the premium [on insur-

ance]. We have also to request that you will follow Cap^t. Mc Daniels instructions with respect to insuring £800 Sterling on the Russell as she returns.

J. G. & THO. BLOUNT

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

[July 5, 1790]

Sir,

I shall set out to-morrow morning for Virg^a. to see Cooper¹²⁶ who I am told has sold the mortgaged Land & from this circumstance I am inclined to think I shall be compel'd to arrest him—perhaps I may not get back till friday or Saturday week as it is doubtful whether I shall not be obliged to go as far as Norfolk; but I will certainly meet at Blount Hall on the 19th Inst.¹²⁷—We owe as much as 100 Dollars for Corn which will become due next month (about the 1st.) & which I depend on you to furnish—McGillivray¹²⁸ accompanied by Col. Willett & 14 Indian Chiefs of the Creek nation passed through Salisbury [2] yesterday was a Week on his way to Congress—This intelligence I rec^d. from Montfort Stokes¹²⁹ who saw him & is now here—

Julia Baker died on the 4th Inst. & my Sister [Ann Harvey] will proceed from Blount Hall to the Bar[.] she is better—

Y^{rs}. &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Tarb^o. 5th July 1790

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

¹²⁶The Blounts had had a joint ownership of a vessel with Captain John Cooper during the Revolutionary War. This may relate to the same contract.

¹²⁷The date on which the heirs were to meet for the settlement of the Jacob Blount estate. See William Blount to John Gray Blount, Greenville, June 26, 1790, page 67, above.

¹²⁸Alexander McGillivray, the half-breed leader of the western area who was keen enough to play off the Spanish and Americans against each other while serving in the employ of both.

¹²⁹See a sketch of Stokes in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 171n. 20.

*John Steele*¹³⁰ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK July 10th. 1790

My dear Sir

By Mr. Osborn I cannot omit to drop you a line, relative to congressional business. The assumption project seems dead, at least for the present session, and no prospect of its resurrection unless the residence bill¹³¹ now before us should be rejected. The Pennsylvanians hold the ballance, they are at present well with the Southern interest, they are satisfied with having the temporary residence in Philad^a. ten years, at the expiration of that time to move to the permanent Seat of Gov^t. on Potowmac; but Shou'd this measure fail, we not only loose the coalition with the Pennsylvanians, the Seat of Gov^t. etc^a. but force them into a junction with the Eastern Gentleman, who would be willing to fix the Seat of Gov^t. on Delaware or even rinounce their religion, (if they have any) on condition of having the States debts assumed.

This bill on which so much depends, has passed the Senate finally, and by Several votes taken in this house, we have reason to believe that it will pass by 33 votes ag^t. 28—

[2] What is the reason you have not written to me? What is the reason my friend W. Blount has not? I have rec^d. two letters from him, but these were on business only. on my arrival at this place, I made out a catalogue of correspondents, you were both included, but I suppose your old Gladiator¹³² here is so attentive in giving you the news, that my letters wou' be redundant. I rejoice that your brother is appointed, not that I Suppose the Office a great acquisition, or that it will add any dignity to his character, more than he is otherwise entitled to, but that it will put him out of the reach of, and raise him above his enemies. There are various opinions here respecting the boundary between the Cherokees, and N^o. C^a.—The Sec^y. of War¹³³ has Some Strange ones [opinions] indeed. It wou'd be tedious to detail them now, will therefore postpone it untill I have the pleasure of Seeing you at Fayetteville next Novem^r.

¹³⁰John Steele (1764-1815) was prominent in North Carolina politics. He served in the state assembly; was a member of the Hillsboro Conventions to consider the ratification of the Federal Constitution; became a Congressman; and served as the first comptroller of the Federal Treasury. Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele*, I, xxv-xxviii.

¹³¹The location of the capital.

¹³²Probably Hugh Williamson who was always ready to defend the Blounts.

¹³³Henry Knox was Secretary of War.

However I conceive it a great point gained to our land-holders, that the business will fall into the hands of a man, of all others the most proper. Present my respects and best wishes to your Brothers W^m. and Tho. and be good eno! to assure M^{rs}. Harvey, how highly I value her friendship.

I am Dear Sir,

Your's very Sincerely

JN^o. STEELE

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 10th July 1790.

Dear Sir

Geo Nicolson of Richmond wrote me of the 19th ult that in a few Days he expected to give me a Draught on his Correspondent in Philad^a to whom he had shipped Corn for 1666 Dls for Acco^t of M^r Blackledge. Have not heard from him since, though I have written him that his Delay must be injurious to M^r Blackledge, & have pray'd him to send me the Draught that as soon as the Corn is sold I may be prepared to claim the Mony.

The Certificates you sent me of 86 are all sold at 4/2 or 3 three Months Credit a good Endorser. The Amo^t about 1850 Dls. The Interest was not computed. The Buyer made out a List of the Certificates and had a great Inclination to get me to give him at foot of it a Rec^t for the Mony paid for said Certificates. I requested Col. Thomas who delivered them to the Broker to say that I would be answerable that they were the true Certificates of Montfort & M^cCulloch and not Counterfeits, but would not otherwise be answerable and would not touch Papers on the Subject,¹³⁴ The Buyer knows that the Circulation of those Certificates is stopped by [2] by our Assembly, but a Report is lately circulated here, by whom I know not, that most of those 86 Certificates are founded on true Claims & that the only fraud was in the wrong Person having apply'd to the Commissioners they not having been the true Assignees of the Sol-

¹³⁴Williamson was undoubtedly afraid that he might be associated with the sale of fraudulent certificates, which event would cause unfavorable political reaction among his constituents.

diers who did the Service. A fine distinction. But the Allegation chances not to be true. Blackledges¹³⁵ Debt is 1625 1/6 Dlsr and Int: from 22 Dec^r. 89 If Nicholson¹³⁶ does not pay, shall I make Use of this Mony for rescuing Blackledge out of the Lyon's Paw?

You need not say any Thing about the Price of those Certificates. I will try to contract for the Delivery of a few Thousands. perhaps you may be able to buy them in on good Terms. On this Head I shall write you soon.

Not a Syllable have I heard from W Blount since his Appointment to the Gov^r.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t
 HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
 Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 13th July 1790

Dear Sir

I wrote you some days ago by Post that I had sold your Certificates at 4/3 in the Pound, the Interest not counted, The Buyer knows that they are under certain Interdictions in the State but it is here conceived that a great Proportion of those 86 Certificates will eventually be saved, hence they bring some Price; in my Opinion it is double their real Value. I think your Brother Wrote me that he has some of them: if so he had best send them immediately. If you know any other Persons who have a Quantity of them on Hands I wish you would try to make some Agreement with them such as this viz. Propose sending the Certificates to the Northward in Speculation on those Conditions that you will either return them the Certificates or pay them 3/ Specie in the Pound, not counting the Interest. If they will not agree to those Terms they will at least agree to send them on for Sale allowing the Commission of 5 PC^t. for a Brokerage of 2½ P C^t must be paid here by the Seller. While this Opinion is alive, & I shall not strive to smother it, I very

¹³⁵Richard Blackledge.

¹³⁶George Nicolson of Richmond, Virginia.

much wish that a great Portion of our 86 Certificates may be fairly sold to the Northward. Pray use some Industry to forward as many as possible [2] possible. While People buy knowing the Law it is a fair Subject of Speculation and if they mistake the Proportion between the true Soldiers and the men of Straw it is not the fault of the Seller of the Certificate but of themselves who guess wrong.

You never wrote me whether any Subscribers for our Map had been obtained.

I am D^r Sir Y^r

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 14th July 1790

Dear Sir

Since I wrote you on Yesterday the Senate have by a Majority of two agreed to assume the Debts of the several States at least 21 Millions of D^{lrs} of the same, and this to be apportioned according to favouritism among them. I fear that Majority will eventually be found in our House for adopting because I verily fear that some of the Members have an Interest in deep Speculations.¹³⁷ Before the Measure passes we shall put their Honesty to a severe Tryal. If People to the Southward have as much Virture as they ought to have in Order to remain free they will disappoint the Hopes of those who expect to get 20/ in the Pound for what cost them in Carolina about 2/6. Don't omit the 86ers. And if others are purchasable on good Terms why not buy at a rising Market!

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

H W

J. G. Blount Esqr

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Favoured by Dr. Osborne

¹³⁷Williamson seems to be drawing a line between private speculation in which he engaged extensively—and speculation which involved the use of public office.

Fulwar Skipwith¹³⁸ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 14. July 1790

Gentlemen

My appointment to the Consulate of the french Windward Islands carries me to Martineque to settle where I am hopeful of being able to do business with the different ports of America to material advantage—knowing that you are in the habits of intercourse with those Islands I beg leave to offer my service either at Martinique the place intended to be my Residence or at any one of the others within my department namely Guadalupe Tobago Cayenne & St lucie’—in each of which Islands agreeably to my powers I shall establish Representatives of the best commercial knowledge & integrity.—the nature & advantages of American trade with the french W. Indies you are no doubt at this time better acquainted with than I am yet ’tis more than probable that on my arrival there which will be in all next month I may be able to furnish you with some usefull insight or information

My having obtained a discharge from the late Companies of Pennock Nicolson & Skipworth & Fulwar Skipworth & C^o will enable me to engage in business again unfettered & my friend [2] Tom [Blount] will allow that I have had dear bought experience enough to teach me prudence so that with such advantages’ aded to those of some money & I flatter myself a greater Share of fidelity I may perhaps do business to the Comfort of both friends & self.

With assurances of attatchment & Respect I remain Gent.

Your Mo Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

Addressed: Messrs. John G. and Thomas Blount

Merchants

Washington

No. Carolina

¹³⁸Fulwar Skipwith was a prominent merchant of the time. The Fulwar Skipwith and Company of London also had an American branch, Pennock, Skipwith, and Nicolson of Richmond, Virginia. The London manager, a Mr. Eyre, had embezzled funds in England, and only the strength of the American house kept the firm from collapse and probably rescued Skipwith from the clutches of a harsh English law. The Blounts carried on much trade with the Virginia house. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 243, 285, 286-287, 359, 476.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 14th July 1790

Dear Sir

Yours of 27th ult: came to Hand by yesterday's Post. The inclosed Letter to Mr. Ramsay¹³⁹ I did not deliver for Reasons obvious. No Remittance hitherto from Nicolson of Richmond. Don't omit sending on as many of the Certificates of 86 as possible. I verily wish that every Shilling of that Emission was sold in this Town, because I suspect that the Buyers here are generally acting for British or other Foreign Speculators.

Are there any other Certificates of other Emissions than those of 86 to be purchased, which are not counterfeits? I wish to buy about £2000 Principal if I could get them on good Terms say @4/ or 4/6. If you could buy them at Time I would put you in Cash to make Payment, for I think they must soon rise.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 15 July 1790

D^r Sir

I Send you Some papers which contain all the news I can give you except on the business of Assumption which I begin to think you may prepare yourselves to be Saddled with notwithstanding all that has been Said to the contrary, it was had up in Senate yesterday and passed upon 14 to 12, it will be tacked to the funding bill and Sent down to the House where it will be loudly opposed no doubt but without effect, Some of your Lukewarm Antis will Shift Sides, & thus you See we Shall have an addition of 21 millions of debt which Congress have no business to interfere with in my estimation, State Securities are rising again [2] again I Suppose 5/ might now be had for any given quantity, the Speculators will even buy Warrenton emission at all risques

¹³⁹See page 25n. 69, above.

rather than not be doing, I lately Sold for Somebody, *perhaps you may know who*, between three & four thousand pounds of that emission @ 4/3 giving 60 days, how long this rage will continue I cannot pretend to predict but if you Should have any on hand that you wish to part with if you can Send them immediately I think we may get them off, I have no objections to their being Sent to the hands of a third person but take notice if any thing is done as in the aforesaid instance as the burthen of the business will fall on my Shoulders I shall take care to assume to myself the merit—

Since my last I have written [3] to Stuart & Barr, they have not deignd to answer me nor has any thing else happened to relieve my wants, but I mean not to complain having no doubt of your exertions to that effect which will be crowned with Success before I go to Gaol; Congress -tis thought will adjourn early next month to meet again in December

Naval Stores are mending I [think, *sic*]* you might Send tar & turpentine* time to advantage tar is 11/& better, Turp 20/

Please present my respects to M^{rs} Blount & believe me to be as always in Haste D^r Sir

Y^r. very ob^t Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

Finals 9/3

Indents 7/3

I have Sent to Cap^t Wallace 50 ^{lb}. Seine twine for which he Said he had your orders

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

Doctr. Osborn

James Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a 16 July 1790

John G. Blount Esqr

As no vessel has Lately offerd for your place I have Sent the Cottens printed for M^{rs} Blount & M^{rs} Palmer to New Bern by Capt Hess to the care of M^r Thomlenson to be forwarded up to

* The manuscript is torn here and following.

Mr Palmer, the Printers Bill is in amongst the Cottens[.] in a Small time we wil forward you Sales of your Spirits of Turpentine on its first arrival we supplied all the Druggists that would purchase at a good price after the [they] were Supplied no other person would purchase except Philip Nicklin who took the Remaining Part at 2/6 P Gal Indeed we were Glad to Sell at that price for Every Vessel from New Bern & Edenton Brought Quantitiys of it with them, Yours were Shipped in Bad order the Outside Casks Being old Could not Retain the water & If we had Kept them much Longer Several of them would have all Leaked oute.¹⁴⁰ It is Dull times with us Now No Vessels is fitting oute for Europe, onley a few for the West Indies the most of them for the Brittish Iselands [2] Corn is plentey & No Purchasers, maney of our Cuntry Specaters [speculators] have Injured themselves Greatly—the Next day after Blackledges Sloop arrived here I took a Journey with [Mrs.] Barr through the western parts of this State for her Health[.] we Rode aboute 250 Miles, she got Some Better by the Air of the Cuntry[.] yesterday Morning Her father Set of [off] with her for New York & Boston By Land, her first Complaint was the Influenta she is attended with a Cough, Chills & a Kind of Intermitting Feavour, I feare Her Complaint wil End in a Confirmd Consumption and Dreade the Worst Event that can Happen to me, I am Much distressed on her account[.]

There has Been No Sale for the Certificates of your State since my Return, those of 85 in Peticular no person wil tutch[.] the Bubble Broke Before I Came Home, Both Houses have Agreed to the Next Sessions of Congress to met [meet] here the presedent has not yet Sined [signed] the Bill[.] there has Been Greate Desintions amongst them on that Question I do not Care for my own Part where the [they] go If the [they] would apply themselves to their Proper Business—

[3] Last week we Sent one of our Ships for PourtaPrince¹⁴¹ we heare all Kinds of Staves are verey Scarce And flower on the Rise the Say 14 to 16. dollars Per Pbl the 15 of June she has aboute 800 Bbls on Board 60 Tercis [of] Rice 100 bbls Herrings, the Rest Lumber—It is Beleved that Spain & Britton is now at

¹⁴⁰This complaint was raised against the Blounts on more than one occasion. In spite of the extent of their shipping, they seem to have been careless in the preparation of their cargoes. This was not true of this firm alone, but was fairly general. It was probably the fruit of the frontier character of the State. The effect on foreign trade was very unfortunate—prices on their products were sometimes lower than for other states where inspection was stricter.

¹⁴¹Port-au-Prince located in the West Indies in what is now the Republic of Haiti.

Ware or on the Eave of it[.] from Every Quarter we have Act of the B [British, sic]—Impressing men & the Last acts from Spain Say the are makeing the greatest preperations If this event takes place it wil make a Greate Change in the Trade of the United States[.] three Indie Ships has arv^d here all of them with full Cargoes, one from Bombay & 2 from Canton[.] the will make Bad Vouges & I dont Belive the wil Clear 15 P Ct on their money I am with Greate Esteem your Humble

Sert

JAMES BARR

P. S please present my Respects to M^{rs} Blount JB

Sup^r flower 55/

Common 51/

Indian Corn 3/3 Dull

Tar, Pitch none at market

Turpentine—16/ to 18 for home Consumption

Bills 1726/0 for 100£ Stey [Stay] on the Rise

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

Per Capt. Hap[.] Via

New Bern

John Evans to Coll^r. Gorham,

LONDON July 26th. 1790

Dr. Sir

I am much surprised I have not as yet rec^d. any Letter from you agreeable to your promise I take this opportunity of informing you that I have fixed on coming to Washington Town to Settle & Sett up a Distillery[.] I have bespoke the Stills two in Number containing 400 Gall^s. each[.] to keep w^{ch} stills in constant employment it will require 50 Cisterns hold^g. 400 Gall^s. each or 24 Cisterns hold^g. 800 Gall^s. each[.] I expect to be wth. you by the latter end of November or sooner if I can, I shall want a Close warm house 70 Feet in Length & 40 Feet in Weadth[.] if that large House w^{ch}. M^r. Blunt has a Mortgage on to the Eastward of the Town close upon the River be of that Dimention it will do if Larger it dont matter, but if smaller it will not do[.]

if Mr. Blunt chuses to join us I have no objections to it & w^d. wish he should, you should now prepare Inch & half or two Inch Plank of the best & most lasting wood under Ground ready for the Cisterns the sooner it's got the better as it will have time to season against I arrive[.] Also look out for a Man that will undertake to make & fix the Cisterns compleatly in such a Manner as they wont leak into each other in case they should he must make them good before he is paid at his own expence[.] besides I shall want a large Cistern to stand above Ground made of Inch & half Plank not more than three feet Deep to contain 800 Gallⁿ. to form an Oblong square with a petition Cross ways in the Middle so as to [2] Form two Cisterns[.] the Petition to be so close & tight as neither part to leak into each other[.] a Quantity of Scantling of your most lasting wood will be wanting for the framing of the Cisterns it must be 4 Inches square let them be either 11 Feet or 16 Feet long then their will be no waist as they will in that Case cut either two or three lengths[.] it will require 16 of those lengths in each Cistern[.] it will be time enough to go for Molasses after my arrival I am thinking that in Case a Couple of large Stoves or shells could be procured & have them fix'd in the house so as to Keep the house to a proper heat that 400 Gallⁿ. Buts w^d. answer bettern than the Cisterns & last much longer & be Cheeper at first Cost[.] you can made an enquirey what the Stoves or shells w^d. come to & where they are to be got [and brought, sic] to Washington sh^d. that house answer our purpose[.] I hope Mr. Blunt will endeavour to get it as cheep as possible & underpin it all round wth. a thick brick wall[.] a slender wall will not do because when they begin to ram the Cisterns if the Wall be slender they will throw it down wth. the Raming If you find that it's Cheeper to have [Buts?] get 50 of them made of the best white Oak staves wth. only a Bottom to them[,] no head to hold 400 Gall^s. each wth. Covers to fit quite Close to them but in that Case these Cast Iron Shells must be provided[,] two in Number in order to Keep the house to a proper heat[.] I have nothing more to mention at present you have time enough to Consider about the Matter before I come if you are determined to join me both you & Mr. Blunt [3] Prepare the articles I have mentioned to you in this Letter against I come & have a Man ready engaged to make the Cisterns in Case you think them the Cheepest[.] If I can keep the House warm enough I w^d. as soon have one as the other

either Cisterns or Buts if you dont Chuse to join in it you must let me know immediately on my arrival as their [are] other people who has spoke to me & will be very glad of the opportunity[.] my Compl^{ts}. to M^r. Blunt to whom I hope you'll shew this Letter. I remain D^r. Sir

Your m^o Obed^t. & very Hble Serv^t

JN^o EVANS

Addressed: Collⁿ. Gorham
Near Washington

Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE 26th July 1790

D^r. S^r.

I have attended at this place in much hopes of Seeing you acc^d. to promise but Expect you have been Disappointed of Coming. I am obliged up [to go home, *sic*] to night and Shall be Disappointed of my Expectation but hope you will let me know your Determination about the turpentine we were Speaking a bout for Next year also what Can be Done with Corn now to be Sent Down or already Down as I have 30 barrels yet up at home besides what is with you[.] M^r Dan Orton wants the Corn but I wish you to keep it if it Sutes you if not let him have it upon the best terms you Can for Molasses or Sugar[.] I wish to know if the Barrel pork which is 12 barrels yet at home is in gaged or will likely Sell as people want it at my house[.] but [I] will not ingage it till I here from you—

I am y^{rs} & c

AMOS JOHNSTON

Addressed:

M^r John G. Blount Esq^r

[J. G. B.'s handwriting on back] Wrote to Johnston [that] Turpentine would do next Year at 1/2 Doll.

That I would barter Rum for molasses or Sugar & take his Corn if I could if not would barter it with Vannordn[.] that his Pork could sell at 90/ in mony by retail[.] To send down his Corn by brency [*sic*]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 29th July 1790

Dear Sir

The funding Bill passed this day—21 Millions of the State Debts are to be assumed the Interest being also funded at an Interest of 3 P C^t. By the reduction on this Head a Saving is made equal to a Capital of 9 Millions nearly. All that we have gain'd by our Opposition is the partial instead of general Assumption A previous law securing the Settlement of the Acco^{ts} and repayment to the Creditor States and the reduction of Interest.

State Securities are now here @ 8/ for the Principal and 6/6 for the Interest.¹⁴² Continentals are at 11/9. Cannot you use a little Industry and buy up a few State Securities not counterfeits. If you could change Paper into Specie it would be a good business. If you could buy at 60 Days Credit and send me the Certificates I could sell them [2] here immediately and give you Orders on some of the Collectors immediately in Payment, those Orders are to be bo^t at the Treasury. If you can do any thing in that Way I will take half the Risque in the Speculation. I should think that M^r. Blackledge who rides about very much might be able to buy up a good many. I believe I can, sell 86ers to a Man who knows that they are interdicted by the State. It is believed that the State will pay them as they were issued by proper Officers. Thus some Speculators reason.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r.*William Blount to Wilson Blount*

Copy*

_____, July 30, 1790

This will be delivered to you by my Brother Willie accompanied by M^r. [E.] Harris heretofore a Surveyor of Lands in the Western Country now a Lawyer in this *part of the Country*—I

¹⁴²The effect of the Assumption may be seen by comparing the prices of certificates in this letter with those given by Hugh Williamson in a letter to John Gray Blount, February 24, 1790, and Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1790, pages 21, 53, above.

* This seems to be a letter which William sent to Wilson Blount and made this copy for John Gray Blount's information.

have prevailed on him to accompany my Brother Willie to your House to give you a Description of the Lands he survey'd for me that is for John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount which is the same Thing for Grants have issued in their Names for all the Lands I entered¹⁴³—They bring with them all the Grants that Have yet issued for Lands entered by me except the Locaters Part and for that by [Harris's, *sic*] Deeds. I hope you will make Choice of as much as Will discharge the Receipt I gave to Porterfield¹⁴⁴ now in your Hands. How much that is you will readily see by having Recourse to the Receipt and a Letter I formerly wrote you on the Subject—From my taking the Trouble to engage the Surveyor, Mr. Harris, to wait on you to give you such Information as you may require touching these Lands you will readily conclude I am very desirous to have this Business closed[.] I really am so, for I want my Receipt out of [2] Your Hands & I want to Know which are our own Lands and this I cannot Know untill you chose [choose] out your part and beside the pleasure there is in a Man Knowing his own property from that of other people, I have sold a part of these Lands and do not wish to make Deeds before you have made Choice of your Part lest you should complain—Another Reason why I am am am very desirous you should make Choice is I am anxious to close my Acc^t. with you which cannot be done untill you do [this] because you would not I presume like to allow for the Surveying &c untill you recve the Deeds for the Land.¹⁴⁵—

You will observe the Patents are all numbered and if you will inform me by the Return of the Bearer which Numbers you have made Choice of to the Amount of as much Land as shall be due on my Note as before-mentioned given to Porterfield after deducting the part given for Locating, I will in a few days have deeds executed to you from John G & Tho^s. Blount, will wait on you with it, take up my Receipt and finally close all Accounts between Us—You will find Mr. Harris very diffident and naturally uncommunicative but if you will make such Inquiries as you wish, you will find him well informed and ready to answer them.—I have obtained from Mr. [3] Granberry Such a Deed of

¹⁴³William Blount probably had two motives in putting the lands in the name of John Gray and Thomas Blount—he was a member of the firm, and he was politically ambitious and undoubtedly many voters would look askance at an officer who held such extensive grants as Blount did.

¹⁴⁴Probably James Porterfield of Fayetteville with whom the Blounts had business deals. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 96; *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 43n. 23; 494.

¹⁴⁵No specific record of William Blount's contract with Wilson Blount's has been found. It probably grew out of an agreement on the part of William to buy western lands for Wilson Blount. Wilson Blount was probably a cousin of the Tar River Blounts. He lived at New Bern.

Conveyance as I wished My Council learned in law advised me so to do in preference of recording the one from you—I have committed that [which] you executed to me to my Brother Willie for the purpose of exchanging it with you for the one you executed to Granberry[.] I have an attested Copy of it but would prefer having the Original—I thank you very sincerely for your Friendship manifested to me in this Business and will be obliged to you to make the Exchange with Willie as above proposed.—Be pleased to make my most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Blount and believe me dear Ser with much esteem

Your obedient Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

to

WILSON BLOUNT

[No address]

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

HILLSBOROUGH July 31st 1790—

Dear Sir,

Through Major [Charles] Gerrard I am this day favored with yours of the 27th instant.—I am willing to hope and believe, it is altogether unnecessary for me to Say, I am not only *Sorry* but really *distressed*, that it is not in my power to comply with the request you make in your letter; for I flatter myself you are already so well convinced of my friendship for you, and of my disposition to Serve you, that you would have done me the justice to be assured Such was the case, even were I altogether silent on that head.

A friend of mine was so good some time past as to inform me, that Reports injurious to my reputation as a public Officer, and Such as emplied at least a tacit accusation of my having abased the trust reposed in me by the State, were industriously circulated at Halifax, Edenton and New Bern: as the last and most effectual means in my power of compeeting and Shewing to the world the base and low falsity of such Reports, I immediately got about Settling my accounts with the Comptroller from the time of my appointment as Treasurer in 1786 up to the first day of July instant, being 3½ years; which I [2] I have completed; and doing which it became necessary for me to pay

to him all the Cash and certificate Vouchers of which I was possessed: and hence the power of obliging you in the present instance has been taken from me, *the Certificate being deliver'd him* [the comptroller].

I must ask you will be so obliging, in case reports of the nature above mentioned shall have reached Washington, or in case you should chance to hear them mentioned elsewhere, to do me the favor as well as the justice to contradict them.—those who know me best will not I think give them any credit; you and many others who wish me well I am satisfied will not; nor knowing as I do the falsity of them, and having it in my power as I have to convince the world also that they are totally false & unfounded, ought I, or can I, apprehend any ill consequence from them to myself; yet I will confess they make me uneasy: for altho' I have lived long enough to know that the good opinion of all is not attainable by any man, yet I had hoped by my conduct to *escape censure*; altho' I still remember that at the time of my first appointment to the office I now hold, you told me such uncommon good fortune ought not to be expected. [3] I beg you to be assured, it will at all times add much to my happiness to have it in my power to evince that friendly regard and esteem I have ever felt for you, and that I shall always consider any opportunity of doing so as a piece of peculiar good fortune—had you sent only one Week earlier your wishes & my feelings might have been gratified on the present occasion, for it is not longer since I delivered the Certificates to the Comptroller.

My best Respects attend yourself & M^{rs}. Blount and you will believe me, as I really am

very much & very truly

your friend

JOHN HAYWOOD

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Mercht.
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 3rd Aug^t 1790

Dear Sir

The Certificates of South Carolina sold here on Saturday last from 8/6 to 9/. Dont know the Price to Day. Our Certificates are indubitably at least as good. Had you been able to command a parcel of them they would have bro^t. a Profit. Is nothing to be done yet?

On the last Week I rec^d. a Letter from Luntsf: Long & one from Col: Reed of Wilmington to both of whom I had sent a subscription Paper for the Map. M^r Long did not get one Subscription. Col. Reed got only one your Brother Jacob in Edenton got none. Is not this very pretty Encouragem^t. and yet the pimping fellows who have Western Lands would be mightily pleased with any Measure that might promote the Settlement of that Country. The Engraving alone with the Copper Plate will cost £25 The Maps may afterwards be struck off for about /8^d the Price including the Price of the Paper. I believe that 8 or 10 Maps might be sold here but I see no Prospect of other Sale. I have been thinking whether it would be worth while to make a Copy of the Map and take or send it to the Sitting of the next General Assembly.

I would have written your Brother William, but think [2] he may have set out for his Government. Do you know at what Place he proposes to settle! [Alexander] M^c.Gillivray is here & lives with the Secretary at War; his Indians at a public House 2 Miles out of Town on the North River. I presume the Treaty is progressing but know not any particulars. I think Congress will adjourn in 8 days or less from this date. Letters to me of Consequence from distant Parts will be charged with Postage if they come by Post.¹⁴⁶

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Free

Hu Williamson

¹⁴⁶Williamson refers to his franking privilege. The high postal rates of the time made this especially valuable.

John Steele¹⁴⁷ to William Blount

NEW YORK Aug^t. 10th. 1790

Dear Sir,

I expect to be in N^o. C^a. in a few days, and will thank you to inform me by the 1st. opp^y., when and by what route you will go to the Western terri^y.

In your letter of instructions from the President, the goods Stored at Swannanno will be noticed,¹⁴⁸ pray inform me immediately, to whom, and when they shall be delivered—I wish to deliver them before I return to Philad^a. and to be present myself at the delivery. I am My dear Sir,

Yours very Sincerely

J^{no}. STEELE

Addressed: His Excellency
William Blount Esquire
Washington
No. Carolina

Free Jno. Steele

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. August 13th 1790

Sir,

I send you P Capt. Crany—

36 1/5 Barrels Corn	a 25/.	£45.5.0
17 1/2 Bushels Wheat	8/..	7.0.0
		£52.5.0

More Wheat could not be collected owing to the fullness of the Water Courses & rottenness of the roads—& the wet weather prevented the cleaning of my own—Pat. Crany del^d. only 271 Bush^a. Salt—our Election terminated exactly to my wish—We have [Ethelred] Philips in the Senate & [Dr. John] Leigh & [Blythel] Bell in the Commons—the Poll as follows—Phillips 187—Fort 153—Leigh 256. Bell 196—Killebrew 169—Hilliard

¹⁴⁷See page 77*n*. 130, above.

¹⁴⁸Blount apparently intended to use these goods to treat with the Indians. He had been appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs as well as governor. Steele seems to have been attempting to protect him from any public criticism in the handling of the goods. Blount had suffered from attacks in a similar situation in the 1780's. Alice B. Keith, "William Blount in North Carolina Politics, 1781-1789," *Studies in Southern History* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957), 53-54.

139—Gray 90—Farmer 84—Bets were offer'd by the opposite party that Hilliard would have 50 Votes more than any other Candidate—hence you may see how much that Interest has depreciated—so joyous an Election was perhaps never seen [2] any where—every body was drunk but no body fought—for my own part I was drunker than ever man was before at the close of the poll I was so exhausted by a fever in the morning & the fatigues of the day, that I scarcely had strength to support myself on my legs; but I was so pleased with our success that I could not keep myself out of the crowd & the people were so pleased with me that I was obliged to drink with every one & after drinking much they hoisted me & kept me up so long that they had like to have killed me with Kindness—I was apparently lifeless for some hours—I shall not set out for the Springs till Monday week—unless my health should require it—by that time I hope my brother will be able to go with me let me know by first opportunity what is [the outcome of election] in Beaufort & the adjoining Counties—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

tell my Sister that Tamar is sick with the Ague & fever & Cherry dangerously ill others of the negroes grunt now & then—Billy Orr¹⁴⁹ has had one fit of the ague & fever & will doubtless have more—I fear it will be a sickly fall with us—T.B.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

Capt. Crany

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 15th Aug^t. 1790

Dear Sir

This goes by Water to Edenton and in future I shall generally to shun Postage embrace some such Conveyance. I have forwarded to Capt. [Josiah] Collins a Copy of the Treaty with M^cGillevry, it certainly gives the Indians as much Territory as they could have expected and cuts in very much on the Georgia People in the Southern Part of that State. Those People growl

¹⁴⁹Billy Orr was an apprentice of the Blounts.

exceedingly, I mean their Senators & Reps. but all other People seem to think the Treaty well made. In fact the Idea of buying Land to be jobbed away by Georgia Specks [Speculators] is not accordant with the feelings of the Nation.

I have some Suspicions that the Treaty to be made with the Cherokees will not be very palatable to some of our french broaders & others in that Part of the new Gov^t. I have three Alternatives to propose to your Consideration and to that of other holders of Western Lands that may be [by] Treaty be confirmed to the Indians. The State has sold those Lands¹⁵⁰ and received Certificates for them. It has given the Country to congriss our Claims being reserved. If we had our Certificates they ought to be funded. Not having the Certificates we ought to be possessed of the Value. I would exchange those Lands with [2] with the United States for other Lands which they have purchased from the Indians, or I would surrender them to the U S for what they cost in Certificates or I would surrender those Lands to the State of N. C. in Exchange for the very Certificates I paid. The State ought not to hold the Payment for Property it does not defend & whenever the Lands are purchased of the Indians they will by such Commutation be long to the State. This last alternative I prefer as being the most probable in Point of Success. If you and other Purchasers are of same Opinion Application should be made to next Assembly, that so we may be enabled to fund the Certificates returned us, or in Case of Refusal by the Assembly may be enabled to apply in due Time to Congress for Redress. Be so good as think seriously of this matter, for myself I should greatly prefer the Certificates to the meer Chance of getting the Land within any reasonable Time.

I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

¹⁵⁰Williamson and the Blounts now began to grow apart to some extent. Williamson was quite willing to settle for a fair profit and became more insistent on disposing of the lands. He did not understand that the Blounts, particularly William, had visions of long time investments with fantastic fortune at the end of the row—so great that it would stagger a weaker spirit. And for the realization of these hopes they were willing to pay in any kind which the venture might exact. Because of this difference in purpose, and because Williamson brought into the open the plans which the Blounts hardly dared breathe to each other, the long time friendship began to waver.

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*NEW YORK 22nd Aug^t 1790

Dear Sir

McGillevray and his Indians saild two days ago for St. Mary's. He has left a Nephew a Boy about 10 under Care of Gen^l Knox for Education. One of the Clerks out of Gen^l Knox's office is gone with him. The Presid^t. saild for Rh[ode] Island last Monday, is expected back to Day. I understand from Gen^l. Knox that as soon as the President returns Instructions are to be prepared & forwarded to Gov^r. Blount. I presume they may be finished by this day Week & I presume they will be sent by Express from some Office on the Post Road, say from Richmond. For I take it as granted that they will be sent to the Holston Settlement say to Washington¹⁵¹ Court House, for from a Question asked of me about the best mode of sending a Packet, it seems to have been taken for granted that the Governour is to be found by a Messenger in his Government. Governor StClair arrived here some days ago. I do not learn what is his Business but have heard from an Authentic Quarter that the Wabash Indians must certainly be corrected. McGillevray has promised to use his Influence with a leading Cherokee Chief to make Peace &c. I have Reasons for believing that Difficulties arise about the Hopewell Treaty. I have on the new Map lain down the new Road from the Mouth of Fr: [French] Broad to the crossing of Cumberland River & shewn that the whole of the Road is in the Indian Country according to the Hopewell Treaty also that the only communication between the strong Settlement about Holston & that about Davidson Co. is by the new Road unless the Travelor chuses to go into Virg^a. The People on the South Side of fr: Broad must be quieted & perhaps a Ridge of Hills between Fr: Broad and little River may be the proper Boundary. I have alledged that a Line from the Junction of Holston with the Tennessee ex: [2] extending Westward across the Cumb: [Cumberland] Mountain might be proper to ask of the Indians because it would leave the new Road on our Side. But where is that Line to terminate or how far South is it to point? This is a difficult Question. I think it not improbable that the Indians would allow us to run along the Ridge that divides the Waters of Elk from those of Duck River. I have been asked whether I

¹⁵¹Washington County, formerly in the western part of North Carolina, but was later included in the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

did not think that Duck River itself would be a proper Boundary to be proposed. Doubtless I would prefer it to the remantic Idea of running up Cumberland River. On the whole I suppose the Governor will be asked to manage that Matter as well as he can. Too much will not be insisted on but it seems almost necessary that some thing in addition to the Hopwell Cession must be made. The Spirit of the Creek Treaty shews that the Idea of pressing hard on the Indians is not embraced. I need hardly ask you to send the Gov^r. this letter if he has not departed for his Government. The Conduct of Nicolson in sending me a Bill that he might suppose would not be accepted induces me to think ill of his Punctuality. M^c. Cabe could not sell 86ers here at more than 2/ on the face. He is gone to Philad^a. to look for a better Market & get the Bill noted which he had not done at first.

I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

N. C.

John Wallace¹⁵² to John Gray Blount

SHELLS CASTLE¹⁵³ 26th [August] 90

Dear Sir/

The fourty Shillings I beleave Master Perry has taken. but think welcom is a partenor I have not yet proved it on them.¹⁵⁴ welcom is well and be haves Very well, Steron I have not Seen Since you wrote me[.] I think he will Sell us a part of the point, at any. Rate he tould me when we parted to bring away Turf

¹⁵²John Wallace, "the Governor," was the proprietor of Shell Castle. He was born in 1758 and was probably the son of John Wallace who lived on New River in the 1740's. *News and Observer* (Raleigh, North Carolina), April 12, 1936; Secretary of State Papers (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), 1742-1749, February 21, 1743. Wallace not only served as the proprietor for the tavern and ship supply store at Shell Castle, but he also directed the business of "lightering" vessels to enable them to get over the sand bars along the coast. A large number of small vessels were kept in readiness at the Castle and when a seagoing vessel approached the bar these small craft would be sent to *lighten* its load so that it could cross the bar through Ocracoke Inlet. When not otherwise employed, Wallace, his sons, and employees would engage in catching porpoises or in fishing. Before his death (July 22, 1810), he had amassed quite a bit of wealth. See John Gray Blount to John Wallace (copy), July 11, 1810. John Gray Blount Papers (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh).

¹⁵³See picture of Shell Castle in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 462.

¹⁵⁴Wallace suspected Perry and Welcome, employees at Shell Castle, of robbing the cash drawer.

that we could not Differ and I have been doing so—the land Business at Ceder Island must lay Still at present for it is out of my power to leave the Castle to do any thing at this time, I know there is a deal of vacant Land adjoining of us and Clark and a deal more of Very Valuable Land that we can take up. but I want you to come and go with me as Soon as you possibly can[.] that wil Compleat all our Business there—John Fulford is Elect,d but I think he will not attend but have not Seen or heard from him Since, I am Told he was Electd agnst his will.¹⁵⁵ I have wrote him that he will [2] have nothing to do with porpus Seins¹⁵⁶ if he goes to the assembly, which I am Clear that he Shall not. that is provided I can have a say—Captain John Smith is this day arrived at the Castle and Loading, he Brought me about 1800 feet of Board, it is not half Enough for our Building. my Carpenter is at work and I have hired a man to Burn lime, it will come Cheaper to us than to Burn it our Self—

I am out of Corn or was before Captain Smith arriv'd but have got some of him[.] the molasses that Camson Brought was the Dambest best in the world, for it will last for Ever—the Meal he let get wet, and half of it Roted [Rotted]. dont Sind me any more Meal but corn, for I can always Grind it finer then what it comes from the mills—Jimmy Wallace is coming up on Sunday, and for fear I shold not have a Chance to write by him I will Give a memorandum to you of Every thing that I want hear but your Self—that I can now think of [3] 2 Spads for Diging of Turf 60 wt. of lead if you get or have it for the [fishing] nets Halls Iron and Juniper¹⁵⁷ for Gaskins he is Crasey for it, and our Old Boat I Exspo [suppose] will be Spilt if we do not get it soon 3 good door locks, hinges [which] Old Bell supplys me with as he makes the Best in the world—Corn Send me Every Chance and Board untill the house is, [finished.]

do come if you can Soon. I want to talk to you about a piece of Business that we have not thought of, that is the Staked of [off part of, sic] this Inlet the Royal Shoal¹⁵⁸ &c if we can get it for time of ten year for no more than they have tel [told, sic] at Washington it will be a Thousand dollars, there is nothing Said

¹⁵⁵Fulford did serve as a member of the Assembly. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 1, 3.

¹⁵⁶Wallace supplemented his work at the Castle by trafficking in fish and porpoise oil. The porpoise was plentiful in the Atlantic and its oil was valued highly as a lubricant before the discovery of petroleum.

¹⁵⁷Also called cedar. This lumber was greatly valued for its tough and lasting qualities.

¹⁵⁸See 'Map of Ocracoke, 1795' in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 453.

in Congress yet. I think wee can get it Very Easey. at the meeting of Congress—for they I Suppose have it to Give—Governor [Samuel] Johnston has come in with his Lady but had not time to call at the Castle, I am well on with the work—do write me on this, yours

J WALLACE

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

Hon'd by Capt Horton

William Murdock¹⁵⁹ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

(Copy)

LONDON 27 Aug^t. 1790

Mess^r. J G & T Blount

Gent.

I have your fav^r. of 28 here and agreeable to your desire have Insur'd on Your Brigt the Russell £825. to cover clear in case of loss to 800 Premⁿ. &c £25.2 as underneath I have got this done at 50 P. C^t. to return 9/6 P Cent if she discharges at her first Port Cork. This I believe is lower than ever was done before f^m. any part in Your State north of Wilmington, The very favorable season of the Year, & the good opinion entertain'd by the Underw^{rs}. of Your Characters enabled me to do it so low—¹⁶⁰

The Vessels and owners of your State in gen^l. does not stand high at Lloyds,¹⁶¹ & above all y^r. navigation is exceedingly dislik'd[.] many of the Underw^{rs}. [Underwriters] would not touch for less than 4 G^s. [Guineas, sic] P C^t. without any return but I cou'd get Your business done at the rate above, why shou'd I give more, yet you must not calculate on this as a general thing—It being her first Vo^{ge}. [voyage] was not in her favour. I conceive the very lowest such a risk could be done for in the

¹⁵⁹William Murdock of London became a very close friend of Thomas Blount when the latter was in Europe (see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 317). John Gray Blount was not reticent about asking favors of friends, but seems to have been as generous in his own services as he expected others to be towards him.

¹⁶⁰This indicated a great advance in American prestige since the days of Thomas Blount's visit there. See letters from Thomas Blount written from England in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

¹⁶¹Lloyd's was the famous marine insurance society of London.

Winter would be 4 or 5 G^s. PC^t. Ireland is consider'd a worse coast than England—I have brought Your T Blounts Bal^{ce}. of £8.12.2 to your Credit.

I am respect^y Gentⁿ

Y^r mo ob^t S^t

WILL^m MURDOCK

£825Ins^d. on Brig Russel a 50/P C^t £20.12.6

Policy 7.

Commission ½ P Cent..... 4.2.6 £25.2.—

If the Russel discharges at Cork there will be a return of 9/6 P C^t. equal to £3.18.10 from the above

Sep^r. 9th. The Russell is arrived at Dublin & M^r. E. Forbes hath informed me that he sh^d remit twenty Guineas on your Acco^t. which will again make me y^r. Debtor Will^m. Murdock

M^r. Tho Blount

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure of your favor of the 21st June. The Russell is safe at Dublin and Insurance was effected conformable to your order of which I have before advised your partnership. I am particularly obliged by y^r. Political communication and sincerely hope your predictions concerning the New Govern^{mt}. will not happen, yet with you I agree there is some ground for apprehension.

Your business under the care of M^r Brown shall enjoy all the attention I can give it, but it will not be in my power to be serviceable in any other way than by repeatedly urging him to get forward with expedition. I have no reason to think M^r Brown a bad Man; or that he is a bad Attorney but I am inclined to think there are Men in his profession of more attention & activity than himself, if fortunately the business had been originally put under the direction of my own Attorney it wou^d have been much better, since you have committed it in some degree to my inspection, at the presnt stage however it must Stay where it is. I always Speak to him about it whenever I can see him, that is

but Seldom, for sometime I am obliged to call on him a dozen mornings in Succession before I can get an interview on Wilmers Affairs.

Dear Sir

Yrs very sincerely

WILL^m. MURDOCK

Poor Contee is Still in Frame what about god only knows M

Addressed: Messrs. J. G. & Tho. Blount

Care of Mr. John Cowper

Mercht. Portsmouth

Washington

Friends

Parcels

Edward Jones¹⁶² to William Blount

FAYETTE Aug^t. 28th 1790

Dear Sir

I wrote you a few lines at Hillsbro' fearing I might not have an opp^y. before your departure to be more correct

I now will [write] again on my way home in same situation merely to request you to Use your interest with Hawkins to apply in my behalf for this western appointment I understand Druw [Druer, *sic*] is applying for it and some other person not known perhaps it may not yet be determined and I know you would rather have me for a friend. in that blake [bleak] Country than run the risk of a Stranger [2] at any rate pray write to me before you Set out and say in case I lose this if there is any other appointments worth making entrust for in that Country I should like to have a respectable color for going out, at all counts I wish you to write from thence and say how I can serve you, I am again elected tho' opposed by all the Aristocrats, My Wife is a sweet temper'd little Girl with a Strong mind and emproved Understanding and is anxious to remove Westerly, You business in my hands shall be attended to,

Yours truely

ED: JONES

Governor Blount

¹⁶²Edward Jones of Wilmington, North Carolina. He was a lawyer and served in the General Assembly. From 1792 to 1827 he was Solicitor General of North Carolina. In this letter he was seeking the office of Attorney for the Territory, but failed to secure the appointment.

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 1st Sept. 1790

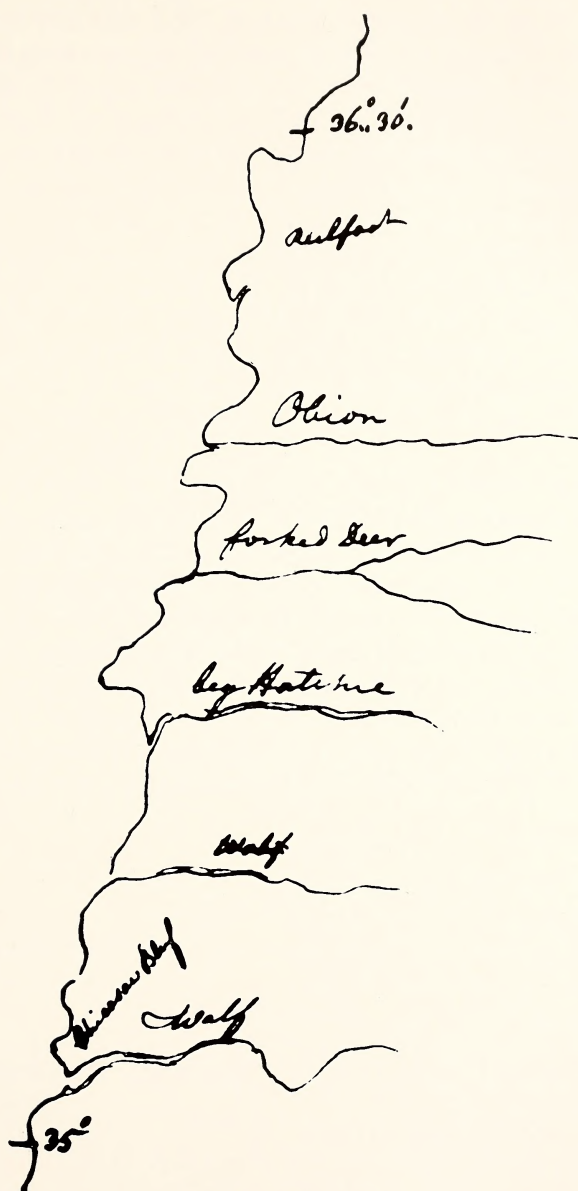
D^r Sir

I have now the pleasure to enclose to you the account of Sales &c. of the Cargoes which you sent to my address so long since, & which are but just now compleated, the balance of the paper money account, which is stated on the reverse of the Acc^t. Sales &c of the Cargoes, I am obliged to leave blank as I do not know the exact sum which you would have to pay to Pearson, but you can fill it up, and I hope it will stand such as to justify me for having in a former letter solicited you to remit me 500 Drs in all the month of August, if not I beg pardon, and at the same instant must renew the offence, by again soliciting you to remit me that sum for without it, *and another hundred*, which by the bye I do not know how to command,¹⁶³ I find I shall have some difficulty in winding up my affairs so as to leave this City perfectly clear of debt[.] in short, I have made such exertions to pay my domestic debts that the balance [2] ance of my salary has not been sufficient to support me, if therefore you can with convenience advance a sum which with the balance in your hands will amount to 600 dollars you will add to the many obligations already conferred and I will faithfully repay you out of my next rec^t of Salary which will happen in the month of December, whatever you do, pray let it be done in all this month, as, early in the next I must clear out for Philadelphia,/ I shall remain there only long enough to fix our Office and then proceed with all possible dispatch for Carolina.

I have little news to give you, we have late arrivals both from England & Spain, great preparations are making for War in both sides, but no declaration had been made or blow struck—The president of the U. S. took leave of this City on Monday 30th Ult^a.¹⁶⁴ vast crowds of Citizens &c. attended his Service to pay their last respects and I think I never saw a more solemn scene—I enclose you a price current which may be depended on, Naval Stores are much in demand & I think must continue so until the new crop comes in—Finals [Certificates] will, 'tis presumed [3] continue at the present price & from that to 13/ & perhaps

¹⁶³Thomas's gambling habits kept him in financial stress.

¹⁶⁴President Washington was leaving New York, which had served as the capital since his inauguration on April 30, 1789. Congress had decided that the government should be moved to Philadelphia, where it was to be located for ten years until the permanent site should be ready. Congress adjourned August 13.



A SKETCH OF THE TENNESSEE TRIBUTARIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Hugh Williamson was eager to obtain this sketch from John Gray Blount when he (Williamson) was working on a map later included in Carey's *Atlas*.

4^d, until the subscriptions take place when it will assume a new face, Indents will rise I think & our State paper must [also] for which I will give you my reasons, When the question of assumption was about to be carried our H.W. [Hugh Williamson] in order to obtain as large a portion as possible for N. C. made and exhibited calculations by which it appeared that the debt thereof was much larger than it really is, now Sir as the purchasers have not faith that the State will make good that part which is not assumed so they make their calculations & contracts. accordingly, but as I know they reason from false data, so I also know how to set them right & have most of the materials in my possession which I will make use of the moment I find it my interest so to do & this I hope will soon happen, I confide that you will keep this information to yourself & if you can benefit by it I shall be happy.

McCabe is here, as busy as McCabe,¹⁶⁵ I know not a more forcible expression, He has about £600 Warrenton [Certificates] which I presume you know something about [4] & Which I fear with all his cleverness he will not be able to get off, being rather to [too] late to hand, he has been offered something like 1/6, he talks of going to Boston, which a friend of mine in the Brokerage line strongly recommends, alledging that the predicament in which those Certificates are is not so well known there as here, which I think probable enough, but I dare not intrude my advice—Please make my compliments to M^{rs} Blount M^r. & M^{rs}. Harvey &c. In haste

I am D^r Sir

Y^r. very ob^t Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

To J. G. Blount esq.

Benjamin Sheppard¹⁶⁶ to John Gray Blount

CONTENTNEA 4th Sept^r. 1790

Dear Sir

This waits on you that I may be informed if I can get any Nails from You and when they will be at GreeneVille And further to Trouble you by asking the favor to get and Send fer me to

¹⁶⁵Bryan McCabe of Washington, North Carolina.

¹⁶⁶This is probably the same person who was Commissioner on confiscated property in the District of New Bern. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 685.

GreeneV. abb¹. [a barrel] of the best rum that can be had with you if you will please do me the favor and Send it on immediately with out regard to expense the favor will be gratefully acknowledged for I must drink Some Spirit & if you wish me any time [length] of life keep me from drinking New Brandy[.] I am in immediate want of Nail¹⁶⁷ & No less of the Rum write [2] write me fully all the Nuse [news] you have[.] If W Blount has left any letters or advice fer me please direct them on for this & Rum is the purpose of the bearer going out[.] All is well with me I hope so with Your

I am Respectfully Your Freand

BEN SHEPPARD

J G Blount Esqu^r.

[3] If convenient Shall be obliged if you will please Send me a Boys hatt of a tolerable good quality about 6½ Inches diameter in the crown & a good womans Hatt.

B S

If you cant get the Quantity of good Rum that is asked for Send me some!.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Per Bay Soloman

William Blount to John Gray Blount

Gov^r. MARTINS¹⁶⁸ September 5th 90 Sunday

I shall leave this on Tuesday or Wednesday accompanied by [Titus] Ogden and Farrowgood [Major George Farragut, sic]. Receive from Purkins 18/8 paid here for his Sheriffs Commis-sion.—Tom. Blount will Shew you or forward to you my Letter to him & M^r. Hogg that is Copies which will explain to You a Certificate Speculation I have entered into on the part of J. G. & T. B. which I hope you will approve of and make profitable—Haywood means to have the Mony in the Treasury counted so that he must be repaid at or near the day the Note expresses which is the 8th November and I believe is the 8th day of the Session.—In April last at the Superior Court at Hillsboro^g. I recved from John Armstrong £125 to be paid to Wilson Blount in part discharge of an Execution Wilson Blount has against him

¹⁶⁷The Blounts operated a nail factory.

¹⁶⁸Alexander Martin, governor of North Carolina.

& Dougherty [2] and which I have not paid but used in paying to sundry Purposes to Jones, to Simpson for Things purchased by Willie¹⁶⁹ for Mamma for Corn & other Purposes hoping to bring W. B. [Wilson Blount] to a Settlement & pay him that Way but that is not nor cannot be done and the Execution is again out against them for upwards of £300[,] the Sale to be on the first day of Hillsboro^s Court that is the 1st. day of October—I have assured them that you will on that day on my part either produce on that Sum or Wilson Blount's Recept and the latter I know cannot be done only by paying him that Sum—I fear this will prove inconvenient to you as well as disagreeable but it must be done or our Friends A. & D. [Armstrong & Daugherty] will suffer and my Credit & Feelings [be] much wounded—I rely that you will do it to a Certainty—You need not [3] attempt to make a Settlement with Mr. Wilson Blount I wish you would not. I want to do it myself.—I have got all the Grants signed that I wanted for you, myself, Sharpe and Reading [Blount] alias R. Blackledge & send them in Tom's Care under Cover to the Office of the Secretary to have the Seals affixed and to be recorded.—I think it is probable that I shall be at Fayette about the 20th Nov^r. tho it is not certain—I will let you know certain by Mr. Ogden's Return which will be about the 20th of October.—Upon the List of Balances there is due to Fred. Blount 26 dollars 60/90 and to Simon Alderson 40 dollars and to Francis Williams 26 60/90—This List was by me this day delivered to the Governor and he will soon cause it to be published—If I find a Copy can be obtained while I stay I will forward it to Tom Blount at Hillsboro [4] who I suppose will yet stay there some days[.] Let me beg your attention to Molsey so as to reconcile her to my Absence which is so absolutely necessary to her I trust as well as her Friends

Your's Sincerely

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

¹⁶⁹Willie (pronounced Wylie) Blount, William's half brother.

Jack [John] Wallace¹⁷⁰ to John Gray Blount

[SHELL CASTLE, September 6, 1790]

Cabarras has been once to see me but has not said a word of Politicks, what Objections he has to Say against Old Hugh. [Williamson]. I will in time find out. and tell the people better if I can. I will Say all I can in favour of Williamson which will insure his Election in this County. I Receivd all the things you sent by Joe [Wallace] I will call on Blackledge Vessel for the Iron, and [fish] net line which I want Very much as the nets are all Ready but the line[.] the Juniper [timber, sic] Gaskins wants very much as he is now Idle for want of it and our old boat all-most Spoilt for want of mending[.] do send some as soon as you can[.]

I feel big [Security of the Castle building, sic] about a Storm. Thers 19 of the logs left which are all on the top of the new work, and about 200 Barrels of old Simpsons tar on them, and Small logs on the Bearers—with Ballast I have as much weight on as it will well Bear; and can at the approch of a Storm put on a deal more which I will do. you may Rest Easey about my taking cear for my all is in it—the South Swash is now well Stak'd and I intend keeping it so—Should there be a well found [suitable, sic] Vessel at hand I will Get her up to the Castle and anchor her a Brest off it if the Captain will come [2] Concerning of Leffers I have wrote him and he has not come, Bill Sears is much better Get him by all means, he wont be going home Every day, the Store Room will be done by the middle of Oc^t. if wee meet with no accidents. that is if you will send boards and Shingles

Fulford has been to see me and says that he tould the people when they Elected him that he could not Serve, and Says that he will not that is if he can be Concerned in the porpus Seines. do write about that Business that I may inform him, or Else he will be disopointed in all his Business, this I know my Self he had been up pungo and got Juniper to Build the Boats for the porpus fishery before the Election, this day week he was hear and told me that he Depended on that Business. he says that he will come to Washenton with or without me the minut the Stuf comes for the Seines, and come under written agreement, that is if you donot come down, but I hope you will. do as you think

¹⁷⁰See page 97n. 152, above.

best on those of porpuses and I will be content for fear you should think that I Neglect the Castle in talking of other Business. I care not for any thing Else you know I am a Great man by my find [fine] house,¹⁷¹ do then Send me a plenty of Boards and Shingle. Now for beging [3] 1 Barrel of fatt pork for I have not as much pork or Bacon on the whole government as will fry me a Dinner of fish—that will Serve this Season—a whip saw I want you to Send if you can by any meens. 6 or 8 ^{wt} of 4^d. Nails for to mend the Old Boat—Fulsher is my Cap^t. Despatch him as soon as you can—I am so poor that I have not Cockle Oysters or fish to Send you[,] the tide is two high for oysters—in October I will look for you, I am married fast to the Castle untill the fifteenth of October there [has been] never a gale known after that

Mitchell in Collings Brig has arrived and gone to Edenton I did not See him, but Scott was his pilot and Says he has made a good Voyage

I am very Grand but wold be happy of your company in the first part of Next month, as I know you will not come this, [Send] 30th lead more if you can get [it]—you [have, sic] Jack Smiths letter that tells you what he carried from hear. he saild over the Barr this day Eight days with a favdwind [favorable wind] again I Repeat that I Creav [crave] for nothing [4] But the Castle—come in October if you can

I am Dear Sir your most

Ob^t. Hum^l. Ser^t.

JACK WALLACE

Please to Send me the orders on Old East Wood and I will Get the money from the Cap^t. when they come in—I want money worse than you do.

JW

Shell Castle September 6th 90

I have sent up the Iron that I have got from the Brig—all But what I want for the Castle, that I will weigh and send you an account of—J.Wallace

pay Fulsher the pilotage of the Ruth up last Voyage, if you can. he is owing the moeny [money] and likly to be Seved [served]—

JW

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

By Mr. B. Fulsher
in the Packett (sic)

¹⁷¹Wallace and the Blounts were remodeling the tavern house.

*Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount
Triplicate**

DUBLIN 6 Sept^r. 1790

Mess^{rs}. J^{no}. G & Tho. Blunt

Gent,

Capt Wm. M^c. Daneil in your Brig^t Russel¹⁷² arrived here the 2nd. In^t. after touching at Cork, and deliv^d. me your esteemed fav^r. of 29 June. its contents have made due note of, and your orders relative s^d Vessel as far as practicable shall be attended to. and your Interest in every respect consulted as if it was my own—I wrote Mess^{rs}. Forrest Stoddard & Murdock of London of her arrival and that I should remit them 20 Guineas on your account—Have sent a Lighter¹⁷³ along Side to take out what Goods there is between Decks, afterwards she will come up to the Quay and Discharge the rem^r. of her Cargo—I have advertised the Vessel for Charlestown S Carolina & N. Carolina, and if anything worth while offerd she w^d. touch at Madeira, also have wrote to Belfast & Newry to try if any Goods or Passengers can be got at both. or either place's if so that she would go there for them; shall likewise communicate the advantageous offer you hold out to settlers Should any be inclined to go for your place. At present there is no prospect of procur-freight or Passingers to any other part of your Continent[.] There was lately two Vessels that got full Cargoes for Philadelphia, of Linnens Woollens. & Glass ware & C^a. and there is a Vessel advertised for New York, some time she will not get more than 60 or 70 Tons Goods. & in truth I have great doubts if any thing worth while will be got for either of the Carolina's as I hear there are Vessells Advertised at Derry & Larne.¹⁷⁴ for same place, so that I fear your Brig^t is come too late to get Passengers—

All the Products of your Country sell here, particularly Naval Stores, Rice, Tobacco, Beeswax, Honey, Staves and deer Skins, the Winter Skins in the Hair to weigh about 3 lb a Skin on an average are more esteemed, but they should be free from

*All three copies are in the Blount papers, but this one was chosen because it has the addenda of Oct. 19.

¹⁷²The Blounts owned the *Russell* which was sent on a number of voyages to Europe.

¹⁷³A small vessel used to lighten the load of a larger vessel—in this case the Blounts' brigantine, the *Russell*. A vessel could be docked more easily after being "lightened."

¹⁷⁴He probably has reference to Londonderry, a seaport in northern Ireland. Linen factories operated there. Larne was located near one of the best harbors on the east coast of Ireland. Extensive linen bleacheries were to be found there.

encumbrances as possible to be packed in Rum Puncheons, and all put up free from Vermin—As to your Pine Planks and Boards I can't say yet how they will ans^{re}. tho apprehend they will leave no profit, as such Lumber comes cheaper from Casco-bay [Casco Bay, Maine] & New Hampshire, from whence I have lately had several Cargoes, and daily expect a Ship from the latter place with Square Red & White Oak Timber 18. to 24 Inches[,] Square Oak planks 3 & 4 Inches thick, Sale Boat Boards Inch thick, with some pine Inch Boards 1¼ & 1½ Inch Pine Planks, Bb^l. & Hhd Staves [2] both Ash & White Oak, For your Government [information], I annex you the Price Current at this Market, at present Naval Stores are high and must continue so if We have a War, yet if we have not, they may fall considerably I need not tell you for I dare say you know the price's fluctuate much. yet on the whole I think this in Gen^l. at least a good if not better Market than Liverpool— . . .

Our Experts are very considerable of Linnens of all kinds, both plain & printed, Flannels[,] Course Woollens[,] Window Glass & Glass ware of all sorts, Printed Cottons[,] Calico's[,] Fustians[,]¹⁷⁵ Jeans, Corduroys & C^a. On receiving a Cargo of your Prod^{ts}. I will by return of the Ship send you of our Manufactures to the full amount of what they may produce, without waiting for Sales. I have seen some good Flax Seed from Wilmington. and being well cleaned and put into Hhds of 7 Bushells each. sold as well as what came from Philedelphia. this Article is Saleable in Feb'y March & April & to the first Week in May for Sowing, any that arrives after must be Sold for Oil for an inferior price; As I lay myself out for the Sale of American prod^{ts}. on Commⁿ. [commission] you may rest assured no House here can [serve] their Friends on better terms, I remain with great Regard—

Your Hble Serv^t—

E:F

Exch on London 7 3/4 PC but our Par is 8 1/3 P C^t
 Best Richmond inspection of Tabacco 3½ @ 4½ bl) free of Duty
 inferior Tabacco 2½ @ 3¼) the duty is 10^d Pr bl
 The sort which answers here is the Sweet black kind, a strong
 leaf that which comes from Carolina is too thin a leaf yet no

¹⁷⁵A cotton and linen cloth.

doubt by paying proper attention. you might procure a Parcel that would answer this Market—

Winter deer Skins in hair.....19^d @ 2/. P lb duty 1^d

Bees Wax18^d.....duty 7/. PC^t

Flax Seed sold last Spring @ 45/6 P Hh may be the next from 40/ to 45/6

Rice.....24/ to 26/. P Ct duty 8/ PC^t

Turpentine13/. P C^t..... duty 2/5 PC^t all that weighs under 2½ Ct.

Here is half a Ct allowed for Tare and what weight above it one fifth part is allowed for Tare. Take care it is free from pine Tops & dirt

Pitch16/ @ 17/)

)

) Duty 1^s/. P bbl. the American

Tar12 @ 14/)

Pitch has been complained of as being full of Dirt and very soft and will not break—

[3]

Tarr is also complained of. as having dirt which sh^d. not.

New York Bbb. Staves....£6.10....@ .7.^s 10 pm. Bbl heading don't ans^r—

Hh. d^o. 8@ 9. — heading 7^s Pm—
Inch Pine Boards 10/ @ 12/6 P 120 feet

d^o. Planks 47/6 @ 50 P Ton of 40 Sq^r. solid feet

White Oak Square Timber from £4—to 5^s P Ton of 40 solid feet as in thickness and quality the larger, the better price it will fetch, neither Timber Carolina Copper Indigo—3/ @ 4/6 Pbbl. Boards Planks and Staves & Ashes pay Duty here, all Dye Stuff are free from duty

DUBLIN 19th. October 1790

Mess^{rs}. Jn^o. G & T: Blount

Gentⁿ.

The preceeding is duplicate of my letter of the 6th. Ulto. Via Liverpool & New york.

Your Brig^t. Russel is now clear to Sail for Charleston S^o. Carolina with but a few Passengers & little freight, Could it beforeseen that they would have been so few it w^d, have been

better She had proceeded directly to your place in Ballast, but when She was first Set up Four Cabbin passengers having Offerd forty Guineas,—Cap^t. M^c. Daniell & myself fully expected as many more at least, besides some goods and that She would have made more than 100 Guineas in freight & Passenger's, for about this Sum Cap^t. M^c. Daniel thought it would be your Interest to proceed to that place, but tho' it has not turn'd out Equal to your Wishes or expectations, yet be assured everything in my power has been done for your Interest, and [I am] much concerned [that] my Efforts has not been attended with more Success.

Inclosed you have Invoice & Bill Ladeing for One large Box & a Small Bundle with Four Crates of Queens Ware Shipt in your Said Vessell amounting to £115.3.,0 Irish Sterl^g. after deducting the Bounty which is to be received on the Linnens, Cottons & Fustians.

The Stone Ware & yellow Spotted ware is not to [be] had here, they must be Sent to Liverpool for, & the Freight from thence here w^d. be 7/P Crate which [4] would bring them too dear at your Market, Consequently I did not order them, Such you must procure directly from Liverpool.—as well as the Negro' Clothing & Duffles none such being Manufactured here, but hereafter if you Send a Vessel here the two Latter Articles of woolens & Queen's Ware can be imported from Liverpool as they will bear to pay a freight.—I hope you'l approve of the Printed Cottons & the Samples of the Woolens as I belive you'l find them at the Prices Cheaper, their Quality considderd, then any exported from England, I w^d. have Sent you Some more of the P^d. [Plaid] Cottons at 15^d. but realy I think those at 18^d. far Superior & Cheaper.

The Acco^t. of the Ships disburs^{ts}. you have also inclosed amounting to £134.4.5 Which exceeds any thing I could have thought, but Cap^t. M^c. Daniel Said that there was not a penny laid out that Could have been avoided, three of his Men being Europeans having left him & geting others in their room is an expence that Could not be foreseen, infuture you Should Ship American's—for our Ships of War will press any English or Irish Seamen they find, especially if a War takes place, of which there is now hardly any doubt.—

Inclosed is Copy of the Freight List for Charleston—amounting to £82.2.5 British, £3.6.10 Irish of which being paid here is placed at your Credit in Account Current also inclosed, Ball^{ce}. due me being £5.2.11^d I have taken Cap^t. M^c. Daniels bill pay^l. to my friend M^r. Isaac Peace Merch^t. in Charleston which I hope will be agreeable to you.

I delivered C^t. [Captain] M^c. Daniel your Bill on him for £180.11.1^d Charged in your Acco^t. Current, and Inclosed is a printed paper of our Imports & Exports for your information,—The great Probability of a war—has given arise to all American Products—& can have no doubt but a Cargo' of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, Deerskins & C^a. will answer well in case you Send a Vessel here therewith in the Spring, you might also Send some good pine Planks 1½ & 2 inches thick, some Barel & White Oak Hhd Staves,—If you Send a Vessel here don't Ship any Oak Timber as we have a Large Qut^y. just arrived which may lower the price to £3 P Ton, you may Send a few Pieces of your Large Square Pine Timber for a tryal, Cap^t. M^c. Daneil Exchanged the pine Boards he had for Norway Boards to make a Bulk Head for the Cabbin. Good Large long Reeds Sell from 5 to 7 Guineas PM.—Good Large Square Black Birch, & Maple Timber answers here. I am with Great regard & Esteem Gent.

Your obed^t. Servant

EDW^d. FORBES

Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount

EDENTON September 17th. 1790

D^r Sir

Yours to M^r. Hamilton is not yet deliverd he is out of Town but expect him hourly I Send you some Papers which contain [Hugh] Williamsons Speech which I wish you to dispose of as you may think propper, M^r. Tho^s. Iredell tells me that he saw [Richard Dobbs] Speight at Hillsborough and he there declared that he would Oppose H. W. and that he had rather any Man should be Elected than H. W. but I think he would carry it against Speight in this Quarter at least two to One, though they Alledge that H. W. Opposed the funding business because he and Bill Blount Owd a large sum in Certificates to the publick for Land

entered in the western Country (this is made use of by Garvey,) how does this business Stand I Expect Garvey down soon and I mean to attack him and I some expect to Ketch Johnson in the business and if I do will give him a laceing as I have long wish^d to do it—Cap^t Collins¹⁷⁶ is anxious to adventure a Voyage to the N^o.W. of America and wishes to know whether you would be concernd if two more can be got to venture about 2500 Dollers a peice he thinks that John Stewart would, from the description of your Brig [2] which I have given him will Just suit if your price would not be too high, A gentleman in this Town from Boston Says that from every information that he could collect (though they are very close) that they must make Sixty Thousand pound Sterling to a Share which was one Thousan Stock a piece when she Saild, his Brother in law was one of the Officers on board he told him that they got a Skin for three Deck Nales that brought them 250 of Green Tea in China, Nancy and Children are well and I am in Compts

Yours &c

JACOB BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Washington

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount
with Letters from William Blount Attached.*

TARB^o. 19th Sep^t. 1790

D^r. Sir

I arrived here on Saturday morning & found that the timbers of the Bridge were all got & about 2/3^{ds}. of them hawled in—we are now ready to begin to put up but for want of the Machine for raising & the Plank for a while defer it¹⁷⁷—I send up this morning to Ben Philips to know when he will come down to begin it & expect he will consent to come next Monday by which time I hope you will contrive to send up the Machine, it might come in a Canoe all the way perhaps, if not I could send for it to Greenville—the River is lower than I ever saw it therefore we must raise without the plank or lose the chance of raising this fall—will you come up on Monday? I want to see you on other Mat-

¹⁷⁶Josiah Collins, the father-in-law of Jacob Blount.

¹⁷⁷He has reference to a bridge which he is having built.

ters as well as the Bridge & would come down this day for the purpose but [Richard Dobbs] Spaight is [2] here much indisposed & will remain with me some days—when we arrived at Hillsborough there were in the hands of the Treasurer to be reissued, Certificates belonging to the people of Cumberland to amount of £2932.14.10 which W^m Blount determined to take for J G & T B & risque the purchasing them of the owners on a supposition that the purchase could be made at 4/. in the pound as they were such as could not on any principle be admitted into the funding Bill—he placed them immediately in the hands of Jn^o. Hogg to be exchanged with Sheriffs &c. for others, but after getting to the Springs he determined to have them Reissued & take Money for 1/3 at 4/. & exchange the balance I however did better for instead of taking Money from the Treasury for 1/3 I sold that quantity to [3] W^m. Steele for ½ a Dollar, which Money to amount of 403 1/6 Dollars I have with me—the remaining 2/3^{ds}. say £2126.0.4 I left in the hands of Hogg to be exchanged agreeably to my brothers order—the Money to pay the owners for the Certificates we borrowed of our friend J. H. [John Haywood] & gave note of J G & T B [John Gray & Thomas Blount] payable 8th Nov^r. the sum £600—the mode pointed out for raising that Sum by the time, for you will observe we must be strictly punctual, you will see in the Letter from W.B. to me herewith—the £380 due from Toomer & £161.5.4 in my hands when changed into Paper will make the Sum—but if you doubt of Toomer's punctuality we must immediately sell the Certificates in Hoggs hands which I believe it is possible to get 3/9 P.C^t. for of Steele[,] if a Sale of them must be made the sooner the better—in the meantime it will be well to try to ex- [4] change the hard money I have for paper perhaps it may be done at New Bern or Wilmington at 12/. or 12/6 to the Dollar—herewith you will receive by M^r. Ogden a list of arrears of pay due the line of this State for the years 1782 & 1783—Gerrard sets out this day with a Copy of it to purchase with our Money for his & our joint acco^{ts}. this is a measure I have ventured to take without consulting you because there is no time to be lost if you disapprove of it let me immediately know & he may be stopped before much is done. M^r. [Titus] Ogden who will hand you this can tell you every thing concerning all things that I am engaged in[,] to him. I refer you

Y^{rs}.

THO. BLOUNT

*William Blount to Thomas Blount*ROCKINGHAM SPRINGS September 3^d. 1790

Herewith you will receive a Copy of a Letter by me written to M^r. John Hogg¹⁷⁸ and a List of Certificates delivered to him by M^r. Ogden. You will observe that M^r. [Titus] Ogden has endorsed on the Back of the List £2932.9.4. This Addition was not made by him and may be incorrect. The Comptroller in his List of Certificates, meant for the same Certificates makes them amount to £2924.11.4

I have determined that it will be best to have these Certificates reissued at the Treasury and to draw the Mony for the one third part agreeable to the Act commonly called the Certificate Act that is to have Credit placed on our Note therefor—The other two thirds to be considered the property of John G. & Thomas Blount to dispose of as you Shall judge best and may be restored to M^r. Hogg for the purpose of making Exchanges for such as are assumed or not as you please but I should suppose to continue a part if not the whole in his hands for that purpose untill after the Rise of Hillsboro^e. Superior Court for about that Time the Sheriffs will generally come in to settle will be best—He is recommended by Major Tatom.—[2] I shall suppose the Comptroller's List and Addition are correct and shall make Settlements accordingly with the people in whose Names the Certificates are issued—The £2924.11.4 at 4/ amount' to £584.18.3 you had then best pay back to Haywood 15.1.9 and the Balance that will remain due on our Note will be the exact Cost of the Certificates belonging to J. G. & T. Blount that is the 2/3^{ds}. Part of the whole.—Let the Certificates be reissued in my Name and be careful not to indulge the Clerk of the Treasury in reissuing them in too large Sums lest it should render even exchanges difficult—From What I said to M^r. Hogg it may be that he may have had a part or the whole of these Certificates reissued at the Treasury without drawing any Mony before you reach Hillsboro^e. or a part of them only in this Case you will have the Balance exchanged as above and either Case you are to consider the reissued Certificates in my Name as the property of J. G. & T. Blount and dispose of them as you shall judge best but it is to be observed upon their being exchanged for such [3] as are

¹⁷⁸For comments on John Hogg see Wagstaff, *Letters of John Steele*, II, page 651n. 1.

assured depends the profit or loss of the Speculation. Certificates reissued by the Treasurer will pay any debt due in Certificates to the State and altho it is doubtful whether the Treasurer will be able to compel the Sheriffs to settle in the Manner he has advertised it is quite certain that all arrearages of Certificate Taxes previous to the year 1790 must be actually paid in Certificates and there are large arrearages for the year 1788—All Entry Takers are likewise bound to pay in Certificates not money and the reissued are as good as any others for them—Perhaps it may be best to send Major Gerrard up to Hillsboro^g. about the last of the Court to renew such Certificate as may be in Hoggs Hands if exchanged it will be so but if not let him have the Business in his Hands after that Time.—Let J. G. Blount be furnished with a Copy of my Letter to Hogg and a Copy of this, and let him know the Necessity [of] Punctuality in taking our Note out of Haywoods Hands—You had best speak to Craven to assist Hogg in making Exchanges.

W^m. BLOUNT

[4] To raise the Mony to repay Haywood I should suppose it would be best to sell the reissued Certificates if to be done on a good profit or the exchanged ones—If these Modes fail H. [Henry] Toomer must be relyed upon and the Certificates may be sold to supply the Place that Mony was intended for.

To

Thomas Blount

Present

William Blount to John Hogg

HILLSBOROUGH August 31st 1790

Sir/

The Certificates delivered into your hands by M^r Ogden by my Order issued by the Comptroller to sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of Davidson and Sumner I wish and request you to Exchange for such other Certificates as are assumed by the late Act of Congress.

To be able to distinguish [those which] are assumed & which not it will be best to read the Act of Congress with Attention—I suppose these Exchanges may be effected by applying to such

People as may have Certificates to pay into the Treasury or Comptrollers Office, such as Entry takers and Sherrifs and it will be necessary to keep a good look out for them as they arrive lest they shou'd pay in their Certificates before you have an Oppertunity of Negotiating an Exchange—If upon experiment you shou'd find that the having the Certificates in your hands reissued or exchanged in the Treasury wou'd the better enable you to Effect the Exchanges; then I request that you will have it done and have the new Ones issued in my name but be carefull not to have the New Ones issued in too large Sums [2] Sums as you will find it an Obstruction to making even exchanges—you will Please keep an Exact list of such Certificates as you obtain in exchange distinguishing Principal from Interest for from the young date of those delivered to you, you will be forced to give principal for Interest, theres but very little Interest on those delivered to you—shou'd John Gray Blount or Thomas Blount apply to you either for those Certificates delivered you by M^r Ogden or for such as you may obtain in Exchange you will please to deliver them and for your trouble in this business of Exchange for such as are Assumed you shall be allowed five per Cent

I am with Respect

Your obedient Serv^t

W^m BLOUNT

M^r John Hogg

Present

all Exchanges made by M^r. Hogg to be considered as made for J. G. & T Blount whether such as are assumed or not

William Blount to John Gray Blount

ALEXANDRIA Monday September 20th [17]90

I arrived here on Friday; visited the President [Washington] at Mount Vernon on Saturday—stayed with [him] all Night and returned yesterday—He has referred me to the Attorney General M^r. Randolph at Philadelphia and I shall proceed to him tomorrow Morning at 3'o'Clock in the Stage and if I do not lose a Stage I shall be here again on this day Week at 12 O'Clock and I certainly will not lose a Moments Time—From this I shall pro-

ceed for the ceded Territory—Via Winchester, Stanton, Bottetourt Court-House; Chezels Mines &c. &c — without delay — I suppose I shall be directed to qualify before some of the Judges of the Supreme Court and Wilson & Blair¹⁷⁹ are both at Philadelphia or I shall be referred back to the President which will occasion no Loss of Time as I shall in either Case wait on him again on my Return [2] I have been much pleased in my Visit to Mount Vernon, the President appears great and amiable indeed admirable, M^{rs}. Washington is certainly one of the most agreeable Ladies of the whole World[.] Major Washington his Nephew is a handsome genteel, attentive Man, his Lady M^{rs}. Washington's Nice [niece] is handsome and elegant and the little grand Children of M^{rs}. Washington, the Children of M^r. Custis are very promising and except that the President is too awful for I verily believe he is awful as a God; Mount Vernon is the most agreeable Place I ever saw—The House is not elegant having originally been begun on too small a Scale but it is now very roomy and commodious and the dining Room is very large and elegant—It stands about 200 Paces from the Brink of the Hill which overlooks the Potomack the Height of the Bank is from 80 to 100 feet above the Bed of the River—Mount Vernon is highly improved with a Number of necessary Buildings in Fact with everyone that is or can be thought necessary [.] good Gardens and if [I] am a Judge fine and elegant [3] ones, delightful Walks, straight circular & serpentine, handsomely and tastily shaded with the best chosen Trees[.] among them the Lombardy Poplar or the Poplar of the Poe of which Ovid sings many hundred years past is found and much admired. The Style and Manner of his living surpasses what I have before seen particularly in Dignity and I suppose I saw him living on his own Funds, not those of the United States[,] in fact Major [William, sic] Jackson so informed me.—At the Request of Gov^r. Martin I asked him if it was true as we had heard to the Southward that he intended this Autumn to visit the Southern States he answered that he wished to do so but had not Time as Presence at Philadelphia would be necessary—some days previous to the Meeting of Congress here the Subject was dropped and after he renewed it by saying that he supposed the approaching Session of Congress would not be a long one

¹⁷⁹Judge James Wilson of Pennsylvania and Judge John Blair of Virginia.

and that the new Congress would not hold a Spring Session and in that Case he should make a Tour to the South as far as Savannah and Augusta [4] in the Months of March April and May—that he should proceed by the lower Road, and return by the uper or the Reverse and from what fell in the Course of Conversation on the Subject I think he will proceed Via Norfolk, Edenton, Washington, New Bern, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah then up to Augusta and return by Way of Columbia, Campden, Charlotte, Salisbury thence the most direct Road to Richmond leaving Petersburg to the Right—I have given this Information to Governor Martin so that you may shortly expect to hear of pompous Orders for equiping and training the Cavalry—and perhaps it may induce the Overseers of Roads and Ferry-Keepers to mend *their Ways* and repair or build new Boats If the very greatest Attention and Respect is not paid him he will be greatly disappointed and Mortified for to the North the Contention has been who should pay him the most—Major Jackson says from Boston to the Line of New Hampshire he was attended by 400 Cavalry and was there met by Governor Sullavan at the Head of 700.—Give Sam. Simpson notice that he may have his Company in complete Order—I want that Molsy and [5] and my Children should see him for certainly such another Man will not again appear in their day.—I would not like the Contents of this Letter to get into the Press yet I would wish it generally known to such as would be induced to prepare for his Reception in any way whatever—His Object in coming I suppose is more to be seen and to gratify the Southern People in seeing him than to see himself tho his ostensible Object is to see the Southern States.

I forgot to mention to you that in Case of the Executors of Duncan Ancrum and Shaw or of either of them should issue a Writ against M^{rs}. Grainger as Executrix of Caleb Grainger the elder that I wished you to be present when Perkins should serve it or as early after as possible for She may be alarmed for I have not for certain Reasons given her the least Intimation that such a Suit would probably be brought and as I mean to plead the Statute of Limitations I should wish her to be so instructed as that She should not foolishly say any thing that might opperate against such a Plea, of all Things She must [6] not go to Wilmington as I am sure She will propose to do as soon as

the Writ is served under the Idea of effecting a Settlement with Mr. Madian from this you readily divert her by telling I have mentioned the Matter to you, that you will speak what is proper to A. Moore and that he will take Care of the Suit, that her presence will be injurious and that if She will stay at Home & hold a perfect Silence that I have so arranged the Business that all will be well—She must not get to Cape Fear for if She does make herself liable to the debt by Word or Act She will.—And if the Suit is brought A. Moore must be feed he has promised not to take the Suit against her but is not feed—You will find a Copy of the Writing She signed on which the Suit will be brough among Grainger's papers—A Copy of it had best be given to Moore that he may the better understand what Advantages to take in the Suit—And if the Suit should be commenced in Chancery pray do what you judge best so as to save the demand being paid [7] I shall be forced to draw on William-son for a part of my Salary—I suppose about 100 dollars.

Your's &c &c

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

William Blount to John Gray Blount

ALEXANDRIA Wednesday Sep^t. 22^d. 1790

I returned last Night from my second Visit to the President at Mount Vernon and shall proceed in an hour for the ceded Territory. The Bend I have made to the North has compelled me to draw a Bill on Doc^r. Williamson for 100 dollars to be paid out of my first quarters Salary—Indeed I have found difficulty in the negociting a Bill and could not I belive have effected it if it had not have been for the Friendship of the most friendly Man on Earth William Hunter of this place. a Whig Scotchman. I consider the Balance of the first quarters Salary and all other quarters as shall become due liable to your appropriation and on you I shall depend for such Sums of Mony as I shall want—About the Time I left home I entertained a Hope that I should

be able to attend the next Assembly and to have met Molsy there but the delay I have met with will I am sure prevent it for as soon as I arrive I shall be much [2] engaged, every officer will be to new commission even to a Constable by the Governor, Generals excepted and they are appointed by Congress or the President which I do not now recollect.—If you find Mr. [Titus] Ogden troublesome at Greene Ville I mean by drinking to [too] hard I wish you would affect some Business that might employ him or him and Benja tho I expect he will stay principally at Blount Hall—He likes to be employed—He will come out to me immediately after New Bern Superior Court—I should be glad of your being at Greene Ville as often as convenient and saying such Things in an indirect manner as might induce a disposition in Molsy to visit the ceded Territory at least in the Course of the next Spring for sooner I shall not be ready—If She keeps her old horses fat when she gets her Carriage she may visit Washington, Tarboro^g. and Blount Hall and pass off her Time very agreeably.—I shall probably send Major Farragut¹⁸⁰ to you from the ceded Territory if there's any Thing worth communicating to you.—Write me frequently by Way of Glasgow's office for I find People are *weekly* passing from there to the ceded Territory about Land Business—on you is my dependence to hear from my Family—

Your's &c &c
W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

John Aldorson¹⁸¹ to John Gray Blount

[23rd Sept^r. 1790]

Sir

Yours of the 15th & the paper Alluded to Came duly to hand. are duly Noted &c—the doctor¹⁸² argued well, I grant readily—

¹⁸⁰Major George Farragut, the father of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, IV., 38n. 92; Albert V. Goodpasture, "William Blount and the Old Southwest Territory," *American Historical Magazine*, VIII (January, 1903), 5.

¹⁸¹Probably John Alderson of Hyde County. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 907.

¹⁸²Hugh Williamson. The most general criticism of him was that he was a "foreigner." This arose from his birth in faraway Pennsylvania and from his Irish parents. The fact that he spent much time in New York increased this feeling of antagonism among the provincial and ignorant settlers. See page 1n. 3, above.

his Information nor abilities never have been doubted. by me—
My only Objections have been first his Nativity. as a European.
Next his residence properly of New york—with regard to his
Nativity I have not knowledge but have Judged from his Ac-
cente & I have lately heard it Contended & Asserted thate he
is a native of Either Delaware—penselvania or jersey—which
may likely be—but thate he is moste properly a resident of
Newyork Surely Must be admitted—woud Still weigh with me
as an Obstacle to his re election if I Cared ate [at] all on the
Subject, bute

I assure you on my word I donote—[do not care]
I know of my self thate I am a bad politician
& unfit to Govern & I Know of Every other
person thate they're politicians Sufficent

to govern for me—I know too that there are your Self. & very
many Others Who have more property to guard—who are Suf-
ficiently Qualified to look in to & approve or disapprove. the
Conduct of the rulers on you & them I shall relye—& be you
assured that untill I have lost the little reason I now hope I
possess—I shall never be again An Electioneir—Even was the
dispute twixt his Infernal Majesty. & Some of the Celestials—

As I had made up but—three hundred & fifty pounds—of the
Eight hundred which I wanted to have. Insured—on the Sloop
betsy—Captain Webster—I have Sent here with a policy to Mr
Desaux—if with your friends or Neibours you can & will Assist
Mr Desaux—in Geting the Other four hundred & fifty or any
part done twill Make me Extreamply Oblieged to you—I have
Not any other reasons for Apprehention but the Season—& the
Scare Denisons Affair has Given me—& besides. I think it has
become a duty I owe my Creditors—[2] To Insure ate least for
as much as I Shoud owe in Case of loss of all—

With my best wishes
I am Sir your Moste Obd^t

Servte—J ALDORSON
23rd Sept^r 1790

Addressed: John Gray Blounte Esquire
Mercht.
Washington
Farv'd Alderson

Fulwar Skipwith¹⁸⁸ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

ST. PIERRE 24. Septem^r. 1790

Mess^{rs}. Jn^o. G & Thomas Blount

Gentlemen

The pleasure of writing you, I have from day to day since my arrival in this Island, been promising myself—& I should leave gratified my desire, with the prospect of affording some information respecting its markets & prospects, that would have proved acceptable; had not the anarchy & confusion of the times given an almost total Suspension to commerce—Inhabitants of every description of both town & country are, & have been three weeks under arms.—What are called the patriotic party, composed of the Martinique Regiment, (lately gained over from the opposite party) the citizens of this town & fort-royal, together with considerable number of volunteers from the adjacent french Islands; have possessed themselves of all the fortifications & Stores, & have marched against the Governor of the Island who at the head of his Council, a number of planters, color'd people, & a company of [2] Grenadiers have fled to a Strong hold in the interior part of the Island, where at present they confine themselves on the defensive—some little recontris have already happened which but too plainly prove an inveteracy, that must most likely terminate in the maddest excesses if not the ruin of the Island—an interference however is daily expected from France, an event alone in my opinion that can prevent one of those evils—The cause of these unhappy disputes appear to have originated more in a jealousy between town & country, than in a disposition in either party to oppose the revolution in France—Both conformably to a decree of the national Assembly, had agreed in establishing their colonial One [assembly, sic],—on their meeting the country interest was found greatly to over-rule—St. Pierre, therefore thought proper to withdraw her deputys, to oppose the proceedings of the Assembly, & finally to suspend them altogether—informing this body, the members had been chosen by the holders of lands [3] and negroes only—the towns people[,] possessed in no great degree of either[,] think themselves unfairly represented.

In tranquility there is vastly more American business done here than I had imagined—this port acting as it does as an

¹⁸⁸See page 81*n*. 138, above.

emporium for the supplys of other Islands—the eastern trade of the United states derive all their West India supplys from the french Islands; & in a very great degree in my opinion would the Southern States, had They been more in the habit of intercourse with them—'tis wonderful the advantages the french Islands possess over the British, in soil & in seasons—& in no one article of produce except Rum; in my opinion are they inferior, & on an avarage 15 P Cent cheaper—except tofia & Molasses the principal articles of produce here are forbid to be exported in American bottoms—from Guadalupe a few hours sail from this, they export under no restriction—indeed from this Island from the facility & safety with which it [4] seems to be done, the exportation is almost as general as if there existed no restriction

If I can in any way be useful to you in the french Windward Islands, they being within my consulate, I pray you to make me so & to accept assurances of the Esteem with which I am

Gentlemen

Your mo. Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

John Evans¹⁸⁴ to John Gray Blount

LONDON Sept^r. 25th. 1790

Sir

I hope this will find both you & your good family well as it now leaves me, I will not pretend to say much to you in this Cover, but will beg leave to refer you to Colo: Gorham to whom I have inclosed in this Cover a Letter, it w^d. be needless for a repertetion, as I have desired him to shew you the inclosed, should he be at sea when this arrives, I beg of you to open it, & duely observe the Contents, & give me an Answer to it as soon as possible, I beg leave to trouble you with the Inclosed for St. Dominique, & beg the favour of you to forward it by y^e. earliest opportunity & what ever Letter may be directed to your Care for me, I'll thank you to take Care of them for me till I come over, & what ever expence you may be at for Letters on my Acc^t., I beg you'll Keep an Acc^t of them, & I'll return the same to you on my arrival with thanks, M^r. Richard Lake who

¹⁸⁴This is not the same John Evans, the Quaker merchant, referred to in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 374, 502.

was a Merchant in Kingston in Jamaica, & did some business for either you or one of your Brothers, & who is also a School-fellow of mine & whom I Knew in Jamaica, is now in England, I have seen him, he was happy to hear you was well, when I mentioned your Name as a Gentleman who I believe ment to be concerned wth. me in the Distillery, he desires to be remember'd to you most Kindly, & told me he w^d. write to you by me when I departed from England, he means to Return to Jamaica soon again I remain with great esteem & Compt^{ts}. to your family I am

Sir

Your m^o Obed^t. & very Hble Serv^t

JN^o. EVANS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington Town
North Carolina

Richard Blackledge¹⁸⁵ to John Gray Blount

GREENEVILLE Sept 28th. 1790

Dear Sir/

I Am this moment from Perkins's who has on my Paying the Commissions 42¼ Doll^s deliv^d the Execution or Rather Inclosed it to M^r Haywood with the Recet & Doc^t Williamsons Letter. which I shall send Davie Express with to Hillsborough—I am sorry to learn you are Sick & Suspect you Cant go to Tarb^o. which I know must Thwart your Business. this Certificate Business has so taken up my time I Cant Attend to my Mills this Fall nor before March or April Next. had you not better send Express to Maj^r. [Reading] Blount and git him with a few of his best hands that is such as he likes best to go & help raise the Bridge. I shall pay the £160 to Simpson emidiately after Toms [Thomas Blount] Return & the put^s up the Mills or Working on them by Maj^r. Blount shall put of [off] untill the Spring I wish you better & am D^r Sir

Your Ob^t Ser^t

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington

¹⁸⁶Richard Blackledge was the son of Richard Blackledge with whom Jacob Blount formed a mercantile business at the Forks of the Tar River (later called Washington) in 1761. The Blount and Blackledge families had continued the friendship as well as the business relations. Blackledge married Louisa Blount, daughter of Jacob Blount, in 1786.

*Benjamin Hawkins¹⁸⁶ to John Gray Blount*WARREN the 18th octob^r. 1790

Dear Sir

I have not heard any thing of Low's note since I saw you: I wrote to M^r Pendleton but had no answer, and the expectation I had of seeing him in New York during the last summer prevented my repeating it. I shall write again this fall.—

I must request the favour of you to pay the ballance due me, if it should be perfectly convenient for you, by the first of march next.—

I shall set out for Philadelphia so as to be there the last week in November if you have any commands during my stay there, I shall take great pleasure [2] in executing them;—Present my respectful compliments to M^{rs}. Blount and believe me with sincere esteem

Dear Sir,

Your most ob^t Serv^t

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

M^r J. G. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

Favd by Mr. John Seagrove

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*AT WILLIAM COBB'S¹⁸⁷ WASHINGTON COUNTY October 20th 1790

On the 11th Instant I arrived in this County and was recived with every Mark of Attention and Gladness that I could have wished. On Saturday the 23^d. Instant I shall meet the Persons in the Commissions of the Peace under the Authority of State of North Carolina at the Court House and shall appoint them or others as I please but I now believe I shall again appoint the same, perhaps with some Additions.—I meet those of Sullavan on Monday the 25th and of Greene on the first Monday in Nov^r.

¹⁸⁶For a sketch of Hawkins, see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 32n. 2.

¹⁸⁷William Blount was writing from the house of William Cobb, a wealthy resident of the Watauga District. Cobb's house became the official residence of the new governor until a permanent establishment was made at Knoxville. Carter, *The Territorial Papers*, IV, 45n. 1.

and those of Hawkins¹⁸⁸ as soon after as possible.—The Writing the Commissions for every officer of the Government both civil and Military I find a great Task and that I have to do for every officer even to a Constable receives his Appointment from me.—I shall not again appoint Tipton¹⁸⁹ Colonel of Washington but Landon Carter who from what I have heard is much my friend and perfectly pleased with my Appointment and Sevier is open and clear in his Declarations in my favour. Thus you see I shall be very busily engaged for a Month in organizing the Government in the four Counties of Washington Sullivan Greene & Hawkins and as soon as that is done I shall have to lay out a New County on the South of French Broad as General [John] Sevier¹⁹⁰ informs me the Senate have decided in favour of [2] those Settlers. I am much at a Loss how to get the Government at Cumberland in Motion and am apprehensive I shall be forced to visit it this Winter disagreeable as it may be for that purpose. It is said that 4000 People went on the Cumberland Guard others say 2000, it may be that Truth lays between the two, either is a great Number.—The President informed me that very full Instructions were issued to me as Superintendent of Indian Affairs before he left Newyork which I suppose must have gone on to Washington it has not yet reached my Hands[.] Farrowgood [Farragut, *sic*] went on as I am informed with the Guard not finding it quite safe to proceed with his Treasure before the profound peace prevails with all the northern Indians. I am very well accommodated with a Room with Glass Windows, Fire Place &c &c at this place.—When I can leave this Territory to visit my Family and Friends is now quite as uncertain as when I left you but it certainly cannot be untill the Government is organized in the Districts of Washington & Mero nor can it be before I open some Correspondence with the several Tribes of Indians and several Months will elapse before all this can be completed.—The Passage of this Letter is not certain nor I have I Time to write another the Person who takes the Care of it being just ready to set forward on his Journey, you will therefore

¹⁸⁸Sullivan, Greene, and Hawkins were western counties of North Carolina until they became a part of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. See map, "The State of Tennessee," *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 278.

¹⁸⁹John Tipton, a resident of the District of Washington in the Tennessee area, was a leader of the opposition to the cession of the territory to the Federal government. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 30n. 2.

¹⁹⁰For a sketch of John Sevier see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 221n. 64.

please send it up to Molsey for her Perusal I am with great affection

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Richmond

Put in (*sic*) office

*John Gray Blount to William Blount**

GREENVILLE¹⁹¹ Oct^r. 26^t. 1790

D^r. Sir

I came to this place unprepared to write you as nothing had turned up of Note since you left this, but on my arrival here about 12 °. Clock I found your Son Blunt just expired of about 24 Hours sickness supposed to be the Ague & fever Billy & Jacob also have the Ague but not dangerous, Loomis is now up here and will prepare something for them Molsey is unwell but I hope it arrises only from Grief I think Blunts disorder must have been Worms. The Corps was this morning sent to Blunt Hall accompanied by Willie, Sharp & M^r. Ogden.

We are yet amused with the talk of a Spanish War, and by the Phil^a. Paper I see a report prevails in New York that the King of Spain has opened the Mississippi to the Americans.

M^r. Cartha tells me that the purchasers of the Siota Country have sold a large Tract to a French Company at a Crown an Acre reserving to themselves a number of advantages. You know we are all bustle at Pitt Court which will excuse every thing

yours as usual

J. G. BLOUNT

[2] P. S.

By your Certificate speculation we shall make something but every body fears that sort of Paper

J G B

Addressed: His Excellency

William Blount Esqr.

Governor of the Territory South of the Ohio

*John Gray Blount probably drafted this letter and never mailed it or he might have revised it and sent the new draft to William Blount. This has one of the few references to William's son, Blount Blount.

¹⁹¹William Blount's home was at this time at Greenville, North Carolina. This seems to have been purchased when he left Piney Grove. Note the number of letters from him written from Greenville. After he left for the Territory, his family with Mrs. Grainger, his mother-in-law, continued to live there until their removal to the Tennessee area.

*John Sitgreaves¹⁹³ to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 29th. Octo^r. 1790

Dear Sir

The Death of Judge Stokes¹⁹³ will render an appointment to fill that Office necessary. Some of my friends have advised me to make application for it, & have flattered me with a hope of success—. I have reason to believe a Recommendation from a Representative or two & from a Senator wou'd have its due weight—and I have also Reason to believe that our friend [Hugh] Williamson has it much in his power to oblige me & has the inclination, in order to insure that disposition a Letter from yourself to him on that head wou'd be alone sufficient—if you think well of the Measure you wou'd oblige me in so doing & I am very free to confess I know no person to whom I wou'd more willingly be under an obligation of so high a nature as to yourself—

My Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount &am D^r Sir

With respect & Esteem

Your m^o. obed^t Serv^tJN^o. SITGREAVES

P. S. Judge Stokes died about a fortnight ago at Fayetteville of a pleurisy in the Head.

J. G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

*Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA 1st Novem^r. 1790D^r. Sir

I arrived here on friday evening the 30th Ult^o., and was not a little Chagrin'd mortified and disappointed to find that M^r Barr¹⁹⁴ had neglected to send the articles you had written for by Capt Werden, his excuse is that he had just lost M^{rs}. Barr and could not attend to any business, but I believe the fact is he

¹⁹²John Sitgreaves. See sketch on page 10n. 31, above.

¹⁹³Judge John Stokes, prominent in the American Revolution era and for whom Stokes County in North Carolina was named. He was a brother of Montford Stokes. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 384.

¹⁹⁴James Barr of the house of Stuart & Barr of Philadelphia. Thomas was probably in error concerning Barr's reasons for not sending the goods. Barr was a personal as well as a business friend of the Blounts and was usually disposed to accommodate them.

was afraid of laying a few days out of the Money, altho I wrote him that I had it in hand & should pointedly pay him as soon as I arrived—I shall tomorrow attend to the purchases, and if there is a Vessel in Port bound to Ocacock I will ship them to J. [John] Wallace, if there is not now a Vessel I shall leave the articles to be shipped by the first, in the mean time I trust you will believe [2] believe me when I assured you that I would have come over from York even if I had obliged to return in preference to your being disappointed, but I had not the least suspicion that Mr B—would do so trifling a thing.

With regard to the post office business I held several councils with M^cCabe and found him to be so open and communicative that I thought it the best way to make an entire confidant of him and to invest him with full powers to secure your contract, I have not the most slight suspicion of his having a wish to supplant you, but he means to dash at all the rest of the line to Savannah, I mean from Edenton, there will also be other bidders, I therefore gave M^cC.¹⁹⁵ two proposals, one filld up on the last years terms the other left blank, to be fill'd in case of interference with a less sum than [3] than any other shall offer for, I hope my transactions on this head will meet your approbation, if not I shall soon be with you to battle the watch about it, as I purpose setting out in the morning of the 4th Inst. Doctor Williamson is 9 days a head of me—I presume you will have heard before receipt of this that my predictions relative to M^{rs}. Williamsons fate were but too well founded in short that amiable woman is [no] more,¹⁹⁶ I will write you again Shortly, I have not my own Tools or I should have made this a better Letter, however it is a sincere one and I know you prefer Sincerity to ceremony, with compliments to M^{rs}. Blount I bid adieu & am

D^r Sir

Y^r Mo. ob^t Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington
N. C.

¹⁹⁵Bryan McCabe of Washington, North Carolina. John Gray Blount and McCabe sometimes competed for the contract of carrying the mail. Blount not only had contracts for having the mail carried, but served for sometime as postmaster at Washington, North Carolina. The latter position was much enhanced by the opportunity to avoid the high postage rates of the time.

¹⁹⁶He refers to the death of the wife of Hugh Williamson. This tragedy was almost too much for Williamson to bear. His letters lose their spirit after this and North Carolina and politics did not have the old appeal for him.

*Reading Blount to John Gray Blount*NOVEMBER 1st 1790

Sir/

I have seen M^r. Gaylord about the Staves all of them can be got in about six weeks & at the price that you offer if the time will sute you, Wilkinson expects a hard dollar f^r Barrel for his Tar therefor I did not bargain with him—If you have any small Rope I wish you to let Moses have some for the purpose of leading my Oxen if you have it let be New, for they are very head strong

I want one Y^d. of linning [lining] and a Stick [roll, sic] of common coloured coderoy [corduroy] Twist.

Yours

READING BLOUNT

John G. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount

Washington

By Toney

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*AT M^r. WILLIAM COBB'S Sunday Nov^r. 7th 1790

Dear Sir,

I am without a Line from you since I left you nor have I yet recved any Instructions on the Subject of Indian Affairs nor indeed any official letters since I left home. I fear the Hand of some unfriendly Land Speculator has got hold of such as have been directed for me. I have visited the Counties of Washington[,] Sullivan[,] Greene and Hawkins and in each have appointed the necessary officers of Government that is Justices, Sheriffs, Constables, Clerks, Registers &c and Militia officers of every Grade below a General—Generals are to be appointed by Congress—Judge [David] Campbell attended me and qualified them by administering the Oaths to support the Constitution and of office. Every Body appears to be perfectly pleased with the Change and if I may judge from the Attention shewn me and Honors paid me with me as their Governor—I could not wish for more and less would have been more agreeable—I will

venture to say the Militia of these four Counties as low officered are equal if not superior to any other four Counties in the World. On the 15th Instant I meet a few [2] of the Heads of the Cherokees at Evans's Ferry on French Broad that is about 100 Miles below this merely to inform them that I am arrived and to make them acquainted with my powers and if I can to get from three to five of them to accompany me to Cumberland for which I set out from Adair's Station on the 30th Instant from this on the 26th—I have already ordered fifteen Horsemen well equipped from the County of Hawkins to be ready to attend me and I shall have beside Col. Charles Roberson, Colonel Elijah Roberson, Col. Joseph Hardin, Col. Valentine Sevier, Captain Dobbins and many others, I believe I shall augment the Guard for I will insure Safety if possible.

I mean to be back here by Christmas or the first day of January at farthest—The day before yesterday I met near the long Island, John Dawson[,] Alexander Cromwell & Families from Tarboro^s. the latter of whom delivered me a letter of the 12th of October from Thomas Blount by which I had the Happiness to learn that my Family and Friends were then well and that you had recovered from a severe touch of the fever.—No Lawyer pleads here without my Licence.—This I forward to Abingdon to take its Chance for Richmond the Distance about 330 Miles and it may be long before it reaches you and so uncertain whether it will ever reach you that I do not write to Molsey or any body else but I shall write both you and her & others by Colonel Avery Via Fayette—He will leave this in 4 days at farthest and will make very little stay at Home.

Your Affectionate

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

No. Carolina

To be kept in the Post Office at Richmond

*John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 8^t Novem^r. 1790

My dear Sir.

I return you many thanks for your Letter by last Post of the 1st. Instant in which I discover you have already taken pains to serve me—I had supposed D^r. Williamson would have been in this State about this time & perhaps at the Assembly, but by the last papers which give an Account of the Death of M^{rs}. Williamson it is possible that melancholy Event may have prevented his Journey—

It is supposed & I am of the same Opinion that no Appointment will be made to fill the present vacancy until the meeting of Congress if this shou'd be the case, probably it will be necessary for me to make known by my friends to the Representatives generally my pretensions to the Appointment in that case Letters to Bloodworth¹⁹⁷ & Steele & perhaps Ashe might be adviseable—I believe the second & the last will be written to but I know not from what Quarter the former should be attacked, if W Blount was here that Business cou'd be Effectuated—I know not on what Terms you stand with him, or whether you correspond with him—, if you do and it is [2] not too much trouble you will oblige me to write him—I know W. B. has great influence with him,—but don't write unless you can do it without pain to yourself—.

I suppose you have heard of the Death of John Hawks¹⁹⁸ which happened suddenly on the 31st Ult^o., I will thank you to let [Titus] Ogden know of it—this Event will put a stop to this Business which concerns him for the present and as far as I can judge or foresee it must do so forever. that Suit cannot be revived by an Adm^r. or Exor it not being bro^t. in the private Capacity of J. H.—and you know the parties who gave the Letters

¹⁹⁷Timothy Bloodworth of New Hanover County. He was well known in North Carolina politics, having served in the state senate. He later served with William Blount in the Congress of the Confederation and after North Carolina entered the Union he was a member of the House of Representatives and then of the Senate of the United States (1795-1801). He was a strong anti-Federalist. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 21n. 3; 22n. 1.

¹⁹⁸John Hawks was very active in public life in the District of New Bern where he served in various capacities—including Commissioner on Building and District Auditor. He was also a member of the Council of State of North Carolina and served as a trustee of Dobbs Academy in Kinston. *State Records of North Carolina*, VII, 564; XX, 49; XXIV, 423, 484, 522, 754.

of Agency will [sic] never appear to appoint others or prosecute in behalf of themselves in one Instance in Ten—

I hope to see you at the Superior

Court & am with great Regard

Dear Sir

Your most obedient

JN^o. SITGREAVES

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 9th Nov^r. 1790

Dear Sir,

Knowing the necessity of Punctuality on this occasion & fearing that the funds placed in the hands of Mr. [Richard] Blackledge might prove inadequate & at the same admitting the possibility of another disappointment to you by the next post—I have collected of my own Money & from Gerrard five hundred Dollars & determined to start with them to morrow Morning for Fayetteville if the Governor grants a Warrant for Thomas' Salary matters will be easy with out a Sale of Certificates of either kind which I suppose it is your wish as I know it must be your interest to prevent—if not the Certificates must go—for settled the matter must & Shall be according to promise be the loss what it may provided a stay of three or four days longer is not perfectly convenient which I could not possibly know without being myself on the spot & my absence for so long a time as you mention would occasion uneasiness; besides it is the wish of our friend to have the transaction kept a secret from every body—it is not at present known to any man living but ourselves¹⁹⁹—[2]

When your Money comes to hand it will be necessary to send to Gerrard immediately as much as is owe[d] M^c.Culloch together with his ^a/c properly stated as he has yet rec^d. nothing & is anxious for a Settlement the reason he has not rec^d. is that he would not receive a part without the whole for fear my funds should not answer (for you will observe my calculation is made in apresumption that I shall get 12/ for Dollars) you had better

¹⁹⁹He probably has reference to the payment of a sum of money borrowed from the State treasurer, John Haywood. See Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 19, 1790, page 113, above. The money was undoubtedly used in a speculation on certificates. See William Blount to Thomas Blount, September 3, 1790, page 115, above.

I think if opportunity offers send forward as much as £100 or £200 more directed to me or in my absence Jn^o. Haywood Esq^c. who will be informed how to appropriate it—I shall leave Fayette if matters go right on Tuesday or Wednesday next. [George] Ogg went from Halifax to Warrenton & has not ret^d. I shall take foward Wards Bonds & leave directions to him here to follow me immediately & if he does not arrive before I come away I will place the Bonds in the hands of Doc^t. Leigh or J. [John] Haywood subject to his call

Y^{rs}.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

AT M^r WILLIAM COBB'S November 10th 1790

Dear Sir,

Since I left you I have not had the Pleasure of a single Line from you. Why did you not write by Colonel Elijah Robertson.²⁰⁰ In future when you shall write you had best make use of the Conveyance by Way of Colonel Glasgow's²⁰¹ office for I find there are frequent Opportunities from thence to this Country and that must continue to be the Case for a long Time to come that is untill all the Titles to the Land heretofore entered are completed.—I am as yet without any Public Dispatches since I saw you[,] altho the President told me he had seen and approved of Instructions prepared for me by the Secretary at War as early as the early part of the Month of August. To what Cause to attribute the Miscarriage I am much at a Loss and never wished more to see any writing being quite at a loss what to do or say to or with the Indians. I have wrote you twice since my arrival Via Richmond but whether they will ever get even to Richmond is quite uncertain.

My Arrival was on the 10th October and immediately after I requested the Persons in the Administration of the Government under the Authority of the State of North Carolina in the

²⁰⁰Elijah Robertson was a land speculator from the Tennessee area and a brother of the better known James Robertson.

²⁰¹See page 20n. 57, above.

Counties of Washington Sullivan Greene & Hawkins to convene themselves on certain days at the [place, sic] [2] where I met them and gave them official Information of the Acceptance of the Cession and of my Appointment—The Government of North Carolina being then entirely dissolved I proceeded to the appointing the needful Officers who immediately qualified in my presence before Judge [David] Campbell who attended for that purpose.—I began with the County of Washington and offered John Tipton the first Commission of the Peace for I made them all separate and he refused it but declared it was not from a Principle of his being opposed to the Change of Government but he was too old to attend to Public Business as he was too old to act as a Justice of the Peace I did [not, sic] offer him the Command of the County which he had held under Carolina but gave it to Landon Carter, a Change that has much pleased a large Majority of the People of the County and I am told that even Tipton himself speaks well of this Appointment. The other three field Officers of Washington had been or leaned towards Tipton's Party but I continued them as it was prudent so to do.—Notwithstanding what you have seen and heard the Honors, Respect and Attention Shewn and paid me have equalled anything I could have wished and I verily believe [3] what you saw on that head must have been wrong for Sevier appears open, friendly and candid and so does Carter and every Body else and I declare upon my Word and Honor that I have not heard even the Whisper of Dissatisfaction from any person or quarter except from some contemptable Tiptonites and only the most contemptable Part of his Party remain attached to him the more sensible having entirely abandoned the Party.

John Scott was Colonel of Sullivan under an appointment made about the Time Tipton was appointed and Christian had been Colonel before and had never been legally removed from Office and upon the Principle that the last Assembly restored John Sevier to the Command of a Brigadier General agreeable to his Commission in 1785 Christian had the Claim to the Command of the County hence I gave it to him and to Scott the Commission of Lieu^t. Colonel. Scott to be sure does not like it but I believe he will submit to it. These are the Principal Changes that I have made. Much is here said as to where the Seat of Government ought to be fixed and it seems generally agreed that about the Mouth of Clinch is the Place say on my land on

Emory's River and to this Opinion I incline but cannot determine even in my own Mind untill I hold [4] a Treaty with the Cherokees and untill I know how many and on what part of the Tennessee the Continental Troops are to be stationed. If on a Treaty with the Indians they will agree to a settlement at this place and the President will order some Troops there for its Protection and I have but little doubt of either then in every point of View this is the place, it is near the Center between the Districts of Washington and Mero and a Settlement and Station of Continental Troops at or near Emery's Town would serve Cumberland better than if the Government was fixed at NashVile itself as it would insure safety from one district to the other and in a few years three at most Settlements would be quite through the Wilderness, a Garrison at this place would almost effectually prevent the Passage of the Indians across the Tennessee provided there was another at the Musell Shoals and that seems very certain.—And on this Events taking place and the Government being there fixed General Sevier, Charles Roberson and I believe one hundred Families would immediately move down and settle and the Opinion that Emery's Town will be the Seat of the Government is already so Strongly taken up here that Land [5] N^o. 2 in that quarter is sought after and would barter I believe for other Property as high as a dollar per Acre and beside the Centrality as to the Districts and the Advantages Cumberland would receive it is the most contiguous Spot in the Territory to the Southern Tribes of Indians therefore the most proper for the Residence of the Superintendent indeed it is so contiguous that by establishing a Town and compelling the Indian Traders generally to trade there only with the Indians, the greater Part of the Indian Trade might be drawn to that Spot.—Having made the necessary Appointments in the District of Washington and my Presence being indispensibly necessary in Mero District to put the Government in Motion there I shall leave this on the 27th Instant for Nash-Ville having already ordered a Guard of Twenty five well chosen, equipped and armed Men to meet me at Adair's Station on the 30th in order to proceed on the first day of December through the Wilderness, the Guard is to be commanded by Colonel [John, *sic*] Blair a Man highly recommended by General Seveir and I mean and hope to be back here by Christmas or the first day of January at farthest. Beside the Guard there are many other Persons

going in particular I Know of Col. [Joseph, sic] Hardin, Colonels Charles and Elijah [6] Robersons, Val. [Valentine] Sevier Jo. Sevier a Son of the Generals who has lived years in the Cherokee Nation and speaks their language to procure me from three to five Cherokees to go along with me so that I expect to pass in Safety[.] If you ask why all this Precaution is there so much danger as to render it necessary? I answer that since I have been out several have been Killed on the Kentuckie Road and four or five were killed about ten days past in Powells Valley who were out a hunting and why not on the Cumberland Road, in the Ability to resist danger will Safety be most probably found and as a Conclusive Reason it is General Sevier's Opinion for before I consulted him I had order only ten and on mentioning the Matter to him he advised augmenting the Number to twenty five.—

I have not heard from Major Farrowgood [Farragut, sic] Since he left this district with the Guard therefore can say Nothing as to the Success of the Business on which he went but I believe no difficulty will be met with in it except the Indians Should plunder him of his Mony before he reaches Jamey Robertson and that I do not apprehend—Another Scheme of this Kind presents itself that promises to be very profitable if you can find out a proper Hand with [7] Mony Edmond Williams[,] Landon Carter and a third Person were appointed Auditors before the Franklin Revolution and John Sevier was their Secretary, with them many Accounts and Vouchers were lodged but on Acc^t. of the Troubles they have issued the Certificates and the Accounts and Vouchers still remain in their Hands that is in Sevier's, he has spoke to Carter and Williams and they have all agreed to issue the Certificates as of the date the Accounts were deposited by which means they will bear about Seven Years Interest and not let it be known only to themselves but that they were really issued at the Time[.] they will bear date and will be worded in such Manner as will insure their being assumed under the Act of Congress, the Checks of such as they did issue has not yet been returned to the Comptrollers office—The third Person is dead or run away I suppose for he is not in this quarter—This Business will be done at Colonel Carter's before Sevier goes to Philadelphia which will be about the 25th Instant and the Certificates will be Kept up by Sevier's Friend

probably one of his Sons untill some monyed Man comes on to purchase them up I mean such an one as you shall send and they may be had I believe and so the General believes at 4/ in the pound paper Mony and as much as that would be asked in hard, hence paper is the best. the am^t. [8] of the Certificates will be four thousand pounds at least probably three will be for Sale for the Parties themselves have some Claims. but lest paper Mony Should not suit every Body had you not best Send some hard Mony also. The Assembly being over can't you again make Use of our Friends—who hold large Sums of Cash.—The General [John Sevier] must have a part of the Profit and Risque too and he has no Mony but I have not yet fixed how much—If the Mony is here by the Time I return from Cumberland it will be soon enough and by that Time I expect M^r. [Titus] Ogden will be here—The General has another Scheme in View of which he offers me one Half that must afford I think a Profit of Two Thousand pounds in actual Mony in the Course of one year, He has not mentioned to me the Terms on which he will let me in nor have I determined that I will take a part but if I can judge aright they will be very easy and there will be no Mony to advance, it is a Scheme of old Warrants of which he has to the Am^t. of 30'000 Acres entered in Carter's office at 50/ paper Mony per 100 Acres and they can be levied on Lands South of french Broad which can be sold at £10 per 100 payable in Cattle at Cash Price without a Warrantee on the producing the Grant from the State of N^o. Carolina, my name never to appear—The only difficulty is geting the [9] N^o. 3 Grants through the Hands of the Governor and the Secretary and this is said to be none as they have already passed on any such[,] nevertheless I have my fears on this head—I believe I never mentioned to you what passed between General Jones and myself on the Subject of the Debt due by myself and my father to the Estate of Cornell after having spoke as to mine I told him that as Cornell had discharged my father in law by leaving him an Executor to his Will I as an Executor would not assume the payment untill I saw how my own was settled and that it was a Subject on which all the Brothers ought to be consulted and it is my opinion as the Business of the Estate is in your hands that you ought not to give any Assurance that it shall ever be paid for Jones admitted that Cornell by naming

my father an Executor had discharged him from the debt which he before owed him and such I know is the law provided the Testator has estate enough beside to pay his debts and it is certain Cornell had and that being the law it is to be presumed Cornell who was a learned Councillor Knew it and intended a Legacy to my Father of the Sum he owed him—How far my Father's not qualifying may operate in Cornell's favour [10] I don't know but I suppose it will not alter the Case for Jones did not hesitate to admit that my father's Estate was not liable in law

I have seen Andrew Greer the Wee white headed Boy frequently and have informed him that you will give him a Passage in your Brig in the Spring to Ireland (to Jarg Water) and two days past he told me he believed he Should accept the offer—He lives within twelve Miles of this place. [On my way here, *sic*] I passed the Blue Ridge at Sniggar's Gap and passed on through Frederik and Berkly Counties to Winchester [Virginia] from thence down the Hollow between the two Mountains Via Stanton and it appeared to me that Half the World were in Motion passing to or from Kentuckie or to or from this Territory, I met at least 1000 Head of Cattle from this Territory going to the Northern Marketts—There's no fear but there will be shortly people enough at Cumberland if I a Settlement can once be made as far as the Cumberland Mountain for every Body say 7/10 at least of the People in this district appear to me to be ready to start for a Settlement lower down and are daily going to Cumberland.—

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE 16th Nov. 1790

Sir

I arrived here on friday last which happened to be in good time as the thing I brought had not been wanted—the Exchange is here 12/. but as yet I have made but little progress in the Business²⁰²—paper is scarce & Dollars are preferred to Gold—owing to which circumstances my only chance of effecting it is

²⁰²He had taken money to settle their (Blounts') account with the state treasurer and was planning to do some business in speculating on some certificates.

by attending the A B [Auditors Board, *sic*] table & taking small quantities as I can get them therefore it is uncertain how long I shall be obliged to remain here. [Abishai] Thomas' warrant cannot be obtained till sometime next month he has not yet arrived—the measures recommended by the Doctor are like to be adopted at least so far as respects to the funding the Certificates & Continental Securities in the hands of the Treasurer Comptroller & agents which will I conceive greatly affect the price of Certificates in the hands of the Individuals for which reason I would advise a Sale of such as we have except those purchased by W. B. [William Blount] at Hillsborough & then I would keep for it is probable that the people to whom they were originally granted will not be content to receive the price which W. B. ventured to take them at; as there is actually a Law which makes Them equal in payment (to the people of the Western Country) of taxes to Money. I got R. [Reading] Blount's certificates from [2] Grist to amount of £350.6.1 which, if I should not be obliged to sell them & it is not probable that I shall, I will send you by the first opportunity after getting home. great efforts are making to pass the ordinance Bill which is this day to be read for the first time & the prospect of success is very pleasing the Canal Bill²⁰³ has passed a Second reading in both Houses by a considerable majority & will doubtless be approved on a third. Leigh²⁰⁴ opposed it with great ability & shines conspicuous on all occasions—as an Orator he is Confessedly foremost on the List & the members of both Houses are disposed to ascribe to him more political information than he possesses—his consequence at this Session is little less than [William R, *sic*] Davie's was at the last. which is no small disadvantage to him, for it is evident that he feels as much consequence as he is entitled to. he has been courted by every body & particularly by S. Cabarrus²⁰⁵ with whom I fear he has contracted too intimate an acquaintance. for dividing the State into districts there are many plans one of which is sent you by this opportunity by R Blackledge, but there is another which proposes to add Pitt & Beaufort Counties to Halifax District with a view to diminish the interest of our friend the Doctor [Hugh

²⁰³He refers to what is familiarly known as the Dismal Swamp Canal. This was a plan to unite by canal the Pasquotank River with Deep Creek in Virginia. Samuel A' Court Ashe, *History of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1925), II, 125.

²⁰⁴Dr. John Leigh of Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

²⁰⁵Stephen Cabarrus. See page 1*n.* 4, above.

Williamson] (who has in this Business some great but secret Enemy O[ver]—& [3] to prevent its being carried I have affected to be much pleased with it & said that in such case I would myself be a Candidate at which declaration [John B.] Ashe²⁰⁶—[who] was presented when I made it & for whom it was partly intended, appeared to be considerably mortified. In the Commons are many genteel looking young men who are extremely vain of their abilities but in an equal degree ignorant—the Senate the weakest ever heard of from this judge what will be the result of their deliberations—the Doctor [Hugh Williamson] was heard on the Subject of his Agency by a joint Committee of both Houses appointed for the purpose at his request & acquitted himself on the occasion in a manner that does him the highest Credit; but to the disgrace of the Legislature in general & a few Individuals of it in particular his Communications were not received in a manner suitable to their importance—instead of procuring him respect that excited Envy which occasioned some indelicate treatment to him from the Committee—[George] Ogg has not yet come forward nor have I heard of him since he went to Halifax. I am anxious for his coming & in expectation of it will wait here 2 days longer than I intended. it will perhaps be the latter end of the week before I shall finish my Business—I shall however do it as soon & as well as I can. & start for home whenever I consistently can—

Y^{rs}. &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

Capt. Daley

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

FAYETTE Nov 18th 1790

Dear Sir

By getting [Abishai] Thomas' Cash Say £384. I have been enabled to take up our note but there is yet a balance of £54 due on it & then £30.7. which I am to pay for Sheriff Perkins is unpaid to get which sums I am obliged to wait longer

²⁰⁶For a sketch of Ashe, see page 3*n*. 9, above.

here & whilst I do so shall continue to exchange as much as I can the rate is 12/ to the Dollar—No News yet of Ogg—the Canal Bill has passed—[Alexander] Martin is Gov^r. [John] Haywood Treasurer without opposition & [Abram] Hodge Printer—the place of holding the next assembly not yet fixed on, but according to custom the damned New Bernians²⁰⁷ will fix it here by their usual obstinacy—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

P. S. Mr. Ogg this moment arrived & I will stay a day or two longer to see the Event of his Business—

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Doctr. Williamson

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

TARBORO 18th Novem^r 1790

D^r Sir

On my way from Philadelphia I travelled in company with Col. Holmes who has the contract for carrying the Mail from Alexandria to Savannah, I Suggested to him that if he purposed to dispense with any part of it, or to have a partner in the business, it was probable you might undertake either one way or the other, he said he would think of it and when he came into the State which would be in all December he would hold council with you but whether he intends to make you any offers I could not learn, if you think it an object worth attending to, I think you had better write him, he lives at the Bowling green on the main post Road,—He is to have 6000 or [2] 5200 Dollars from Edenton to Savannah, it is at present carried from Edenton to Wilmington for 2016½ Dollars, as thus from E. to W. 760½, W to N. 456 & N. to W. 800, and I make no doubt but he would farm out the whole or any part on the same terms, if at all, as he would make Money by it at either of the first sums mentioned, but if he obtains the 6000 no doubt he would give more—the reason of the two summs being mentioned is, that after the P. M.

²⁰⁷The New "Bernians" were apparently at odds with some other groups of the East faction. If the East allowed themselves to become divided, then the West might take advantage of the situation and carry their own plans through. See Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount. November 27, 1790, page 148, below.

G. [postmaster general] had agreed to give the 6000, on the evening of the last day an underbidder stepped in & he was reduced to a dilemma, however Col Holmes agreed to take it at the lowest bid rather than lose it, the PMG at the same time pledging himself to abide by their first agreement if he found he could justify him [3] self to Congress for so doing

I wrote you this morning informing of my having the Money & intention to carry it on to Fayette where I presumed it was wanting,

I am D^r Sir

Y^r. mo ob^t Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

Care of Mr. Williams

Charles Gerrard²⁰⁸ to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Nov^r. 19th. 1790

Sir

The following is part of a letter from Tho^s. Blount dated two days past at Fayetteville, which he directed me to Communicate to you immediately.

"The money for the Claims you are purchasing is to be paid by the Commissioner of loans, Skinner,²⁰⁹ & it is expected he has it now in hand.—the powers must be acknowledged by two Justices as you will See by the resolution of Congress annexed to the laws which are at my House in the Book-case.["]—Inclosed is the power of attorney which you was So obligeing as to have taken from Eckols for me which I will thank you to have acknowledged at Some Convenient time when he comes to Town if you think it really necessary.—

I Could not Set off for Murfreesbur^s. this morning as I wrote you I Should but Shall early in the morning.—

Yours

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Washington

²⁰⁸See page 87, 21, above, for sketch of Gerrard.

²⁰⁹William Skinner was Commissioner of Loans of the United States until his death in February 1798. *North Carolina Journal*, February 19, 1798.

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 23rd Nov^r. 1790

Dear Sir

I left at Fayette Ville in the Hands of your Brother Thomas £340 in Paper Mony to be put into your Hands. I wish to have it remitted on the best Terms. I think the Measures now taking by our Assembly of funding all their own Certificates in the Treasury will strike down the Price as soon as the Law passes. Should such be the Effect I would buy at the fallen Market. If you could buy for 8/ on the Face I think it would be a good Purchase. M^r [Richard] Blackledge is a good Hand to buy. If the Certificates do not fall you will be so good as try to buy Silver @ 11/ for the Dollar.

To morrow I propose setting out for Portsmouth to take a Packet for Baltimore on the Way to Philad^a. You may expect to hear of your Cloak in due Time.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Free Hu Williamson

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*FAYETTE 23^d. Nov^r. 1790

Sir,

A. [Abishai] Thomas arrived here yesterday & informs me he brought forward the money for the Bill transmitted him by you on M^c. Cabe—I drew his Money here with which he is satisfied—the arrears of pay due to Soldiers whose Claims Gerrard has been purchasing are to be paid by General Skinner who it is supposed has now the Money in hand[,] the powers of Attorney must necessarily be attested to by two Justices of the Peace of the County in which the man who gives the power resides[,] this you will see by a resolution of Congress which accompanies the Acts of the last Session—Gerrard had best apply to Skinner immediately. Blackledge has obtained in the way of trade from

T. Branton an order in fav. of J. G. & T. Blount on Benj^a. Sheppard for one hundred Dollars which I suppose will very well suit you—Ogg's Letter will be read in the House this day & the necessary Steps have been taken to get it referd to a special Committee—& I have hope that the report will be a good one. to effect which is the only thing that now detains me.

Y^{rs}. &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Favd by Mr. Blackledge

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

FAYETTE—27th Nov. 1790

Contrary to every idea I had when I wrote you last I am here still—I have been detained not by private Business, but to assist in uniting the Eastern Interest²¹⁰ which was more than ever divided at a time when union was more than ever necessary, & had all the members of the different Counties been present we should have effected the desirable purpose—Under the disadvantage of having Eleven absent members we carried the Ordinance Bill through the commons the second time by a Majority of two & it was rejected in the Senate (to which four of our absent members belong) by the vote of the Speaker—one member more in that house would have completed that important Business—New Bern has been twice pushed as the place for holding the next assembly without effect—& to day we started Tarb°. (being our best Nag) & the Ballots are now counting; but I am confident there will be no Majority for there are just 77 of each party on this question & the devil can't turn a man of the whole either way except I should be mistaken in a New-Bernian, & in that case we shall certainly lose the Race—

It is now plainly seen that the Western members always tricked us, & could we [2] devise ways to keep our members together we should be the strongest party on all questions; but unhappily for us that is not possible they are now breaking

²¹⁰The East versus West was probably the strongest political cleavage in the State. The Blounts, Thomas in particular, worked hard to keep the East intact and to maintain its ascendancy over the West. For further evidence of this division see Keith, "William Blount in North Carolina Politics, 1781-1789."

ground daily & as soon as their ranks are a little more thinned our Enemies will have a decided Majority & avail themselves of the opportunity of dividing 4 or 5 Counties by which means they will acquire the power of keeping us under forever—by coming this time you might possibly have saved the State which is now in a fair way to be ruined—I mean by keeping some of the members who cannot be kept by any body else—Jasper²¹¹ of Hyde has obtained leave to absent himself & will do so tomorrow, or next day—Borden²¹² of Carteret & others also going away—I hope their Constituents will castrate them as soon as they get home.

The hell-fire Committee (I mean the Committee to whom was Refer'd the Bill for dividing the State into districts) this day reported in favor of the following plan—Salisbury & Morgan to form the Yadkin division—Hillsborough with the addition of Rockingham & Montgomery to form another Division—Halifax, with the addition of Bertie & Hertford to form the Roanoke division—Wilmington & Fayette with the addition of [3] Johnston County to form the Cape fear Division—& the remaining Counties of New Bern & Edenton districts to form the other Division—this however it is to be presumed will not be concurred with[,] it savors too much of Justice to meet with the general approbation—Among the Bills already passed are the three following viz^t. The Canal Bill—a Bill to repeal the Inspection Law passed last Session—& a Bill to prevent any Senator, member of Congress or other officer under the Government of the United States from holding an office or appointment under this State—the last was without doubt levelled at [Hugh] Williamson & [John] Steele²¹³ who are both thereby dismissed [from] the service of the State[,] whether the Bill for funding the Certificates & other Securities belonging to the State upon the Doctors plan, will pass, is doubtful; it is a subject on which there appears to be great diversity of opinion—a Resolution for calling another Convention, With power to undo every thing made its appearance a few days ago in the Senate & was instantly kill'd by friend W^m. Courtney— who happened at that time to have the power of saving or damning it—much important Business is talked of but nothing [4] of the kind is yet brought forward—Johnny Browne of the Bent is not this year a member

²¹¹Probably James Jasper.

²¹²William Borden.

²¹³See page 77ⁿ. 130, above.

nor is there here any Executor to the will of H. Montgomery—of course I shall have no money to pay on that score I will however write M^r Browne & inform him of your intentions if he had been here & at the same time tell him what you say of Powells Valley [Tennessee] & the negroes—young Hugh Montgomery is of age & lives near Chissels mine in Virginia at a place called Reedy Creek—I shall wait here to-morrow to know how the Committee will Report on Oggs papers & start next Morning for Tarb^o.—I have written fully to W^m. Blount by a direct conveyance from this place & shall write again if opportunity offers—I told him we had determined to hold the Certificates purch^d. at Hillsborough till we were informed by him that we might safely sell them—I think it extraordinary that we have not heard from him by way of this place before now & am fearful he has written & his Letters have miscarried—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

The Ballots of this day [For place of meeting of next Assembly] are

for Fayette 71

Tarb^o. 74

Hillsb^o. 9

No majority

William Blount to John Gray Blount

AT M^r WILLIAM COBB'S Nov^r. 27th 1790

Dear Sir

I am in a few hours of Sitting out for Cumberland with a Guard of twenty five armed Men beside from twenty five to fifty others and mean to be back by the first day of January and now entertain a Hope that I shall be able [to] visit my family and Friends in N^cCarolina about the first of February but this will depend on the Instructions I shall receive—as yet I am without any since I saw you and I never longed to see any Writings more than I do the Instructions on Indian Affairs—Major Farragut has returned came in with only four Men beside himself and several other weak parties are lately in quite safe but the Reason I take a Guard several weak Parties have been

killed and plundered on the Kentuckie Road as many as twelve since my arrival

Col. Robertson's Letter is dated the 3^d. Nov^r. and has the following Passage "I recved the Mony by Major Farragood [Farragut, sic] safe and the People as yet willingly receive it in lieu of the Certificates."—Farragood goes back with me.—There is [2] a considerable quantity of Snow on the Ground the second we have had and a Propsect of more but as this is the day appointed for Starting I go certain about 20 Miles.—[John] Sevier went off yesterday for Congress We have not determined to do any of the Business respecting which I before wrote you but parted without making any Conclusions—his Treatment & Conduct to me has been friendly and pleasing—I have been forced to draw on [Hugh] Williamson for 100 dollars to raise Mony here and I am as saving as I can be—I have not had the Pleasure of a single line from you—The inclosed may be published in [Francois Xavier] Martin's or [Abram] Hodge's paper²¹⁴ if you and they think well to do so. Happness attend you

Your affectionate

W^m. BLOUNT

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE Dec^r. 1st. 1790

Inclosed is a Letter from W^m. Blount which I received yesterday & took the liberty of opening—with it came a Letter to Molsey which I herewith commit to the Care of William Keais who returns without effecting the Business he came on it being impossible to Exchange hard Money for Paper at any rate to such an amo^t. altho Dollars are called 12/ owing to the present scarcity of the Currency—However I doubt not but it may be done easily enough when the members receive their pay as Dollars will be rec^d. for their board at 12/ with as much avidity as paper, therefore as Blackledge must necessarily stay here till the rise of the Assembly, I have advised W. Keais to place the whole of his hard money in his hands & he has promised to get it exchange & pay the paper into the Treasurer for account of N. Keais & take Receipt in the manner you directed—having

²¹⁴See Letters for 1794, page 447n. 81, below.

Williamson's Money in hand to a greater amount than you directed me to pay for Keais' Account I, instead of £176 paid the Treasurer £312—[2] & have taken his Receipt therefore, according to instruction which I shall bring forward tomorrow to Tarborough—a fourth Ballotting was this day had for the place of holding the next Assembly & no majority—the numbers were, for this place 76. for New Bern 75. for Hills^o. 3—the fact is, friend William is manouvring to get it at Hillsb^o. but I am in hopes we shall disappoint both him & the New Bernians by effecting a Compact with the Western Members to have it alternately at Tarb^o. & this place for 8 years on condition that we will not in that length of time Revive the Ordinance Bill—nothing now remains to be done but to agree on the place that shall have it first—we say Tarb^o. & they propose that it shall be determined by a Cast of the Die—the proposition came from them & therefore we suppose they will accede to our terms—the New-Bernians are attempting a similar Compact but Polk,²¹⁵ who is a leader, opposes the plan because he prefers Tarb^o. thus you see that to make such a Compact would not be unfair—No Business done since my last which you will herewith receive[. Dr.] Leigh is a leader & would make a [3] very good one, if he had but information enough—Oggs Business will not I fear be reported in this Session—he will return with me to Tarb^o. & we shall certainly start tomorrow if not prevented by rain which has detained us three days & it is now raining very fast—10 o'Clock at night—[Abishai] Thomas bro^t. forward 628 Dollars & will keep them till he sees you—I used £384 of his paper—& shall bring home with me about 800 Doll^s in Gold which if you want, you must send for [it] as it will not be in my power to see you till the end of the month—if you have not sent up the Plank & have water, pray do so, the Bridge must be done by the first day of next year—& nothing but the want of that will prevent—

I am

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

Mr. Keais

²¹⁵Probably William Polk of Mecklenburg, North Carolina. For a sketch of Polk see Wagstaff, *Letters of John Steele*, I, page 190n. 1.

William R. Davie²¹⁶ to John Gray Blount

[n. d.]

Dear Sir,

The Judge in the Superior Court here at the last Term, expressly charged the Jury to give or settle the exchange at 33 1/3 only, in a case exactly like yours—saying that the exchange was in effect settled by the act of assembly—upon my pressing the matter to the Jury, they gave the real exchange, but directly against the charge of the Court.—I dont know whether you'll find such a Jury at Newbern—The Judges will be the same. I have not therefore issued a writ.

Yours respect &c/

WILLIAM R. DAVIE

I have no writs, having kept none since the Case

Addressed [on back of letter]:

John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

[TARBORO, December 9, 1790]

Sir,

I have del^d. to Gerrard Money to pay Reeves & he will pay him in his way down & deliver you our Note for 230 Dollars—I have money to pay Johnston & will pay him on sight. Inclosed are a Receipt from the Treasurer for £312 paid him for N. Keais esqr., The final Settlement Certificates you sent by Blackledge—and the Certificates I rec^d. of Grist [sic] for R. Blount amo^t. £349.19.1 P List therewith—of the Business doing & done at Fayette you have probably heard as much as I can tell you—for in fact they have done nothing more than I have already informed you of except the removal of the Assembly which is to sit next at New Bern—when that was effected I left them—it was the Business that detained me so long & I had the satisfaction to find that the Western Rascals blamed only me for their Loss—I was in reality serviceable to the Eastern Interest but not

²¹⁶English-born William R. Davie of Halifax, North Carolina, was one of the most able lawyers in the State. He often handled legal matters for the Blounts. See C. C. Pearson, "William Richardson Davie," *Dictionary of National Biography*, V (1930), pages 98-99; Blackwell P. Robinson, *William R. Davie* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957).

in so great a degree as the others imagine—to the plan of funding recommended by Williamson[,] Thomas is opposed & the passage of the Bill is doubtful if it passes it will be with a proviso that the Treasurer shall write the Senators for [2] their advice on the Subject & make it his Guide, or rather the Criterion by which he is to be determined whether to fund or not. Means was here when I came home the day before yesterday waiting to buy the Certificates purch^d.—at Hillsborough & offer'd 5/ in the pound throwing in as much of the principal as would amo^t. to 7 years Interest. I told him his price would not do, that I consider'd them worth 15/. paper in the pound upon the face—for old Auditors he offer'd a Dollar in the pound—for final Settlements 11/. on prin- & 6/. on Int. to 1 Jan^y. 1788—from hence he went to Fayette where Certificates of every kind have fallen in consequence of the funding Bill. Thomas has in possession the money he bro^t. forward & if he uses it will be charged at 11/. for such part as he does not dispose of at 12/. the Money Keais car^d. was left w^t Blackledge—to be exch^d. for Papers & p^d. into the Treasury for acco^t. of his [Keais's] father—I shall make no Entry in my Books of the monies rec^d & paid away till I see you or you inform me how to make them—I would come down but my time for finishing the Bridge is so short & my presence so necessary that [3] it is impossible—pray send up the Plank time enough to be put on by the 1st. Jan^y or I shall forfeit my Bond & advantage will be taken of it. the rest of the work will be done in time—If George is wanted in the Boat I must spare him as soon as he is done Sawing—

With Compliments to all

I am

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Tarb^o. 9th Dec^r. 1790

Ezekiel Cossa²¹⁷ to John Gray Blount

Board SLOOP SALLY. Decr 13th 1790

Latt^d 29^d. 40^m.

Sir. I had the Misfortune on the 27th. November in the Lat^t. 40:00 in a heavy gale of Wind and by a Suden Shift of wind from

²¹⁷Ezekiel Cossa commanded vessels for the Blounts on different occasions. He seems to have been very inefficient and often fell into ill luck. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 373n. 7; 450; 465; 466n. 97.

Port to N.N.W to Loose our M. boom both Crutches have been
tore of [off] the Quarter Hove in three feet-Long the Boat Hove
50 bb of Deck [load]

I Canot Inform you Every peticaler but am Now on my way
to Cape Frances the Vesel was Near Sinking Several times be-
fore I hove away; make 665. Stroakes p^r. bal f hour—this Comes
by the Brigg Queen of Ronock [Roanoke] round to Cape Feare
Sir Mo^t.

EZEKIEL COSSA

Capt. Monsen who supplys us With some provisions
N^o. b

We Lay too in Differant gales 13 or 14 Days before [we] bore
a way;

Addressed: John G. Blount
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

William Nutt for Henry Toomer²¹⁸ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Dec^r. 15. 1790

Mr John Gray Blount
Sir

I rec^d yours of 4^t Dec^r & have spoke to M^r. Mallett
agreeable to your request who says he had answered your letter
to him on that subject—I will furnish lumber at four pounds
ten Shillings PM feet delivered in Wilmington for the Amo.
my note due in March—I have it in my power to supply the
Calidonias whole cargoe at the above mentioned price provided
your mode of payment may suit me—You do not mention the
Calidonias burthen or when She is expected[.] of this you will
please write me immidiately and point out the mode of payment

²¹⁸Henry Toomer was a state commissary in Wilmington, North Carolina. *State Records of North Carolina*, XII, 99. William Nutt was probably a clerk for Toomer.

which if agreeable to me I will undertake to procure her Cargoe as also to give her dispatch when she arrives—

I am sir Your Obedient

humble servant

for H Toomer

W^m. NUTT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Merch't
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 18th Dec^r. 1790

Sir,

Cap^t. Knox, in the Packet,²¹⁹ arrived here on Tuesday Evening last & has delivered 394½ bush^{ls}. Salt 3 Casks Molasses 211 Gal^s. & 1 Cheese—And he this Day starts with 313 Bush^s. Flaxseed contained in the forecattle)

)
.....& 23 Casks6/.)£93.18.—
114 Bush^s. Peas@ 6/. 34.4 —

£128. 2.—

and your Wheels & the Wench [a female slave]—

He has likewise on board 22 bbs Pork on freight for Henry I. Toole & Clements who are chargable therefor—

from the length of time the Boat has been here it is natural for you to conclude there has been delay in the management of her; but I assure you of the Contrary—she arrived at a time when every Boat belonging to the river was at the landing & every boy belonging to the town in use. & the hill which, is passable only by one way, was so slippery that there was difficulty in ascending it with more than half a load—as soon as boys enough could be had[,] I employed two Carts which have been running with all possible speed ever since—She might have had a full load of Corn from Toole if I would have taken it in a few miles below town but it was to haul 1½ miles, & the probability of her being delayed was so great & my want of

²¹⁹See page 66n. 114, above.

the Bridge plank so urgent that I could not consent to take it—
 pray dispatch her with the plank time enough to get here by
 the last day of the Month if possible. the old Bridge is in such
 condition that people on the other side are afraid to bring their
 produce over it to market by which means the town suffers
 & besides I have reason to believe that advantage will be taken
 of my failure if it is not compleated by the appointed day—
 [2] Some of the Casks which contain Flaxseed I wish to have
 returned if it can be done with convenience as in making up
 Pork I shall want them—having no Barrels—I have not one
 empty Cask left—Of Flaxseed I have)
 no More—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

I have committed to the care of Cap^t. Knox a rifle for Maj^r.
 Blount & I beg his pardon for not sending her 3 months ago—
 his Mare is in fine order & I am anxious to convey her to him
 (having myself no use for her) but cannot spare a hand of any
 sort to send with her—He shall have her by first opportunity—
 perhaps Col. Thomas whom I daily expect here will be in want
 of a Nag to ride down—if so I shall let him take her—

T. B —

12 BU Pak Toole
 10 Clements

Richard Dobbs Spaight²²⁰ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 19th. December 1790

Dear Sir,

As I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of quitting the
 Continent again this Winter and taking refuge in some of the
 West India Islands, I propose going to the Island of S^{te}. Cruz
 [or St. Croix], it being perfectly neutral—the french are in
 too great disturbances—and the British in case of a Spanish
 war would not be agreeable to a Man in my condition—I under-
 stand that you trade a great deal to S^{te}. Cruz, and of course
 have correspondents on that Island—you will oblige me much

²²⁰For sketch of Spaight see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 528n. 7.

by giving me some letters of introduction to the Gentlemen there and also informing me what kind of our produce will sell best there. I propose going in two or three weeks at farthest, as I have already suffered considerably by the cold weather—I had almost forgot to thank you for your *polite visit*, when you were in New Bern, when I go to Washington I shall certainly return it in *better coin*—

Pray let me hear from you speedily and believe me to be with regard & esteem

Your Sincere friend

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 20th Dec^r 1790

Dear Sir

Some 12 Days ago I requested of you to endeavour to lay out the Mony I left in the Hands of your Brother Thomas in State Certificates though they should cost as high as 12/ P £ on their Face. I hope you have been able to make the Purchases. I have lately rec^d several Letters from Gov^r Blount the last of them dated 26th ult. He was on the next Day to cross the Cumberland Mountain on a Visit to Davidson County &c and was to be again at W^m Cobbs 7 miles from Johnsonbro [now Johnson City] by the 1st of Jan^y.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 24th Decem^r. 1790

Dear Sir

I wished much to have seen you prior to my going on to Philadelphia but it is now out of my power, without delaying more time than I can possibly Justify myself in doing, the As-

sembly having detained me to the last hour of their session, and indisposition four days afterwards, I am reduced to the necessity of pushing on with all imaginable Speed to overtake the business of the Agency which has now entirely devolved on my shoulders in consequence of a Law which vacates the appointment of Doctor Williamson,²²¹ which by the bye is a vile one, and in my estimation will injure the State more, than the —junto who carried it will render service if they should live a thousand years.

I have seen a paragraph in your Letter to your Brother relative to sending you some Money, I am really [2] really sorry that it is out of my power to comply with your request, but it is absolutely so, having laid out every shilling I could raise in Certificates, so that I am in the same predicament with yourself in that particular if I should be obliged to raise Cash prior to going on I must sell to a disadvantage, And I must beg leave to recommend to you not to part with yours [certificates] if you can make any other Shift, for you may rest assured that the speculation in the Certificates of this State is now the best on the continent, they must and will rise, and I wish you could feel yourself at liberty to engage in purchasing and let me be interested one half, you may purchase to any amount you please so that you do not exceed a hard dollar on the face for such as bear interest from 1783 & for others in proportion, remit the Certificates to me and you may hazard your name to any amount in [3] in bills at such sight as to be certain the Certificates will be to hand prior to the day of payment if it is but twenty four hours it shall be duly honored

I will thank you to write me as soon as convenient by post or otherwise, I shall be at Philadelphia as soon as a Letter can, & if you must immediately sell your Certificates send them to meet me there and the proceeds shall be immediately returned, I will thank you at the same time to transmit a statement of my account with regard to my pay & the remittances you have made me, as I am not able to strike the balance for want of knowing the sums paid to Pearson & others—I shall write you

²²¹This was the law to prohibit members of Congress or other officers of the United States to hold simultaneously any State office. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, December 25, 1790, page 158, immediately following.

again by first opportunity, & hope you will consider me as usual always happy when you put it in my power to render you service

With my best respects to M^{rs}. Blount, I remain D^r. Sir

Y^r. very hum^l Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq.
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 25th Dec^r 1790.

Dear Sir

I formerly requested you to lay out the Money I left with Col: Tho^s Blount in the Purchase of State Certificates. I am now to request that you would buy them if they are not bought already Even though they should cost 13/ or 14/ of our Paper Money to the Pound on their Face. I hope to get some thing clever for M^r Blackledges Bounty Certificates he sent. My last Information from the Assembly at Fayette Ville says that an Act was passed That no Member of Congress nor Officer of the U. S. shall hold any Appointment under the State civil or military. This is the very Thing that you know I had suspected would be attempted. I hope the State may not suffer on the great and weighty Subject of her Claims from the personal Resentment of a few Individuals. I hope that my Successor will be able to serve more effectually [2] than I should have done. I am yet to learn how far the same Opponents may have succeeded in their Attempts to prevent my Election. Whatever Injury they may have done me I have the conscious Satisfaction that I have endeavoured to serve my Friends faithfully and to serve the State effectually.

On my Way towards Fayette Ville I wrote from Edenton in favour of our friend Sitgreaves²²² and I think his Cause was not injured by that first Application.

In the Absence of Col Thomas the public Accounts claim my steady Attention and some very important Subjects are now pending before Congress which demand incessant Application.

²²² John Sitgreaves, a prominent lawyer of New Bern and a good friend of the Blounts, was seeking an appointment to a vacancy on the Federal District Court. He was successful and in all probability was much indebted to Williamson for the appointment. For a sketch of Sitgreaves see Ashe, *Biographical History*, II, pages 398-400.

I have little Time to write to my friends to whom I otherwise should gladly write. Be so good as make this apologie to those who [3] might probably think of the seeming inattention.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.

Washington

John Smith²²³ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK Dec^r 27th 1790

Sir/

This will Inform you of my arrival at this port the 25 of this Instant after a passage of 7 Days, and the 23^d I was in Sight of black Island but from the Sudden Shift of the Winds Spliting of my Sails, the Vessel being so amazing water log'd fom the Ice, and the falure of my Crew. was Obliged to Come in at this port with and [an] E. N. E. Snow Storm—From the Very Severe Winter have thought it advisable to Sel my Deck Load The most I Could obtain was 1½ Dls per bb^l.—I Shall Sail for boston in two Days from this at farthest If possible—When I arrived I had only two men and half beside my Self therefore I found my Self very happy at my arrival, maxwell is Rendered Quite useless from his being Exposed to hard work—[2] I have nothing more very particular to add, only from the Low price of Tar Is occasioned from the philadelphia and other Vessels bound along the Coast puting in at this port—I Should wish you to Inform Cap^t Eastwood that Capt Joe Wood of Bermuda Spoke with Capt Beak on the 17th of this Instant In the Latt of 34.00 on Soundings With two feet of Tar in his hold and two men Lost Sir I

Remain

Your

Hum^l Se^t

Jⁿo SMITH

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount, Merchant

Washington, North Carolina

by Post

²²³John Smith was a sea captain who often served as a supercargo for the Blounts. He seems to have been one of the most efficient of those so employed.

Thomas Wynne²²⁴ to John Gray Blount

—————, Decem^r. 30th. 1790

D^r Sir

I rec'd your favor of 23^d Instant by M^r. Blackledge relative to the ensuing election for a representative, I have not seen many of the Inhabitants of this County since my return from the Assembly—however those I have conversed with on the subject of the election are generally in favor of Williamson and it is my opinion that he will have a majority in this County tho' I am apprehensive many of the Electors will not attend in which case the majority will not be great as I think it is probable some People will exert themselves in favor of Johnston.²²⁵ from y^r hum^l. Serv^t

THO^s. WYNNE

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 31st. Dec^r 1790

Dear Sir

You have probably heard of a Project for a national Bank, if such Bank is erected and the thing is not improbable I think it may help to make our bad Paper Money worse. I formerly requested of you to buy Certificates for me with the Cash I left in the Hands of your Brother Tho^s. if you could get them at 12 or even @ 14 or 15/ in the Pound. I mean so many Shilling Paper Money for the Pound on the face of the Certificate. Perhaps some old Continental Money is to be purchased. M^r Blackledge bo^t [bought] me some for 50/ the Thousand a good many of them about 5 P C^t proved Counterfeits but still I shall nearly make my [2] my Paper into hard Money by the Purchase. I wish you would take any that you can get even @ 60/ the thousand if State Securities are not to be had. Be pleased to tell me who and what sort of a Man is Capⁿ. Kelley.²²⁶ He has been zealously recommended for Command of a Cutter.

I am

D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

²²⁴Probably Thomas Wynne of Hertford. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 76.

²²⁵Probably Charles Johnson of Chowan who was Senator in 1789. Connor, *Manual of North Carolina* (1913), 457.

²²⁶It was not unusual for political leaders to seek the advice of John Gray Blount before making recommendations for appointments.

*John West²²⁷ to John Gray Blount*HEMPS FERRY Dec^r. [n.d.] 1790

Sir/

as you do not sind the Mall [Mail] any longer than this Month I hope you'l oblige me with the Money by the Post Boy the last time he Rides as I shall be in extreme want at that time it will save me the trouble of sending—I'll make out your Acc^t. and send it in by y^r. post Boy and beg you may not fail sending the Money and it will be Esteem'd a most singular favour by

Y^r. most Hbl^e. Serv^t

JOHN WEST

NB the Reason of my sending this is that you may not Disappoint me if you cannot comply please let me know by post Boy

Addressed: John G. Blount
Washington

Edward Hall²²⁸ to John Gray Blount

[n. d.]

Dear Sir

I have sent my Boat down hoping thro' your interest to have her graved [cleaned], or any other thing done to her that may be thought necessary the Skipper M^r. Bryant will wait untill she is finished and render his assistance—in so doing—She was slightly done before or would not have needed a repair so soon

I flatter myself you will assist me on this occasion—I am

Your Most ob^t Serv^t.

EDWARD HALL

²²⁷Probably the same person referred to by John Haywood in a letter to John Steele, January 6, 1808. Wagstaff, *John Steele Papers*, II, 533.

²²⁸Edward Hall, a merchant of Tarborough, had numerous business transactions with the Blounts. In the 1790's he was associated with Charles Gerrard in the firm Hall and Gerrard. See Hall and Gerrard to John Gray Blount, Tarborough, June 11, 1793, page 271, below.

James Glasgow²²⁹ to John Gray Blount

[n. d.]

Dear Sir

By Dempsey²³⁰ is a line for W^m Boyd it is sent open for your Perusal Seal it & give it a Conveyance when opportunity offers Boyd appears anxious to do the Business—perhaps (from his obstinacy) 'tis the most legible mode of obtaining what the Members appeared anxious of, his Copy which will be on paper I propose transcribing in a Book.

Dempsey takes a Cart down for Nails please send me 30^{lb}. of 8^d. & 30^{ct} single 10^d. for which I will pay you the Cash at Pitt Court, I want the same quantity of each kind, and will be much obliged to you to give them a Conveyance to Greenville from which place I can get them with more ease these also shall be paid for then. inclosed is two forty shilling Bills which M^{rs}. Glasgow send to you with her Compliments, & begs you will be so good, as to send her a dozen Cups & Sauzers a Tea Pott & 2 small Bowls [2] of China if to be had if not queens China or any kind to be had she also requests me to remind you of your Promise at Newington of visiting Cotentnia and to inform you she flatters herself with the pleasure of M^{rs}. Blounts Company—

if you have any kind of Black Stuff in your store please send me a pattern for a pair of Breeches—have you any Comm^{ds} to Hillsboro—or Business with the Governor I set out Monday fortnight

Dear Sir with the utmost

Regard & Esteem

I am Yours

J GLASGOW

Send me 1 Curry Comb & Brush—

J G Blount Esquire

[No address]

²²⁹See page 20n. 57, above.

²³⁰Dempsey was probably a slave.

LETTERS FOR 1791—1792

*William Blount to Alexander Martin*¹ *M. WILLIAM COBB'S² January 22^d '91

Dear Sir,

You will see by the inclosed letter that it was written before I went to Cumberland.—Major Ramsay's³ Business was to have made application for the appointment of Surveyor in the place of Taylor but he was taken sick and could not come down. I would not be understood to say that I believe the appointment is in North Carolina of right for I mean to give no opinion on the Subject.—How is it my dear Sir that Grants [have been] issued for lands laying South of French Broad[.] is it not directly against both the Words and Spirit too of the laws of the laws of N^o. Carolina? Do you not suppose Congress will consider those lands the Property of the United States and that they will dispose of them as such as soon as the Indian Claims shall be extinguished [2] notwithstanding they may have been previously granted since such grants are not warranted by law.—

A few days past I dispatched a Messenger to the Cherokees with an invitation to meet me at the Mouth of French Broad River in Treaty on the last day of May and have no doubt but they will attend.—

Will you my dear Sir honor me with your Company at that Time & Place[.] I shall be very happy if you will.—As yet I am without the Pleasure of a single line from you since I saw you—I hope this may be fairly attributed to miscarriage for I am unwilling to believe that you have entirely forgot me or neglected me so much as not to write even one letter but was I to judge by the letters I have not received since my arrival in this Country I might readily conclude that nearly all the World had done one or the other. I made a very short Visit to Cumberland stayed there only eight days, as little time as would possibly do to make all the necessary appointments of the officers of

* Governor's Papers, State Series, XIX Alexander Martin No. 2, 1791-1792.

¹Martin had come into the State from New Jersey by way of Virginia in 1772 and made his home in Guilford County. He served as a lieutenant colonel for the Second Regiment in the Revolutionary War. After the war he began an active political life, serving as a member of the General Assembly, speaker of the senate, governor of North Carolina, and United States Senator. At the time of his death (1807) he was living at Danbury in Rockingham County, North Carolina. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 71; II, 182.

²Blount made the Cobb residence his home when he first went to Tennessee.

³Probably Josiah Ramsay of the Territory South of the River Ohio, whom Blount had appointed a second major, December 15, 1790. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, IV, 442.

Government in that District, and was [3] back here by the 29th December—For the Particulars of this Journey and whatever respects Cumberland or this Country in general &c &c I refer you to the Bearer your old Friend Major Farragut⁴ but I cannot forbear to tell you that the Cumberland lands do really exceed in Richness of Soil any Description I ever heard given of them.—Permit me to present you my very sincere Congratulations on your reelection and to assure your Excellency that I am with great esteem

Your most obedient
Humble Servant
W^m. BLOUNT

His Excellency
Alexander Martin esquire
Governor & [etc.]
N^o. Carolina
Private

William Groves⁵ to John Gray Blount

Jan^y. [n.d.] 1791

Dear Sir

your very friendly and Polite address is now before me; but to enter into detail of family disputes is a matter of too much delicacy to expatiate on—when M^{rs}. Groves yesterday left me in a very abrupt manner, my entreaty for her to stay was in vain, 'tis my earnest desire for her to return & all matters heretofore shall be buried in oblivion—but to have a Conference at any other place than my house is a matter I cannot brook to—your very friendly unsolicited & Manly interference in this matter will ever make a most lasting impression on my mind and memory, and entitle you to every mark of gratitude which it may be in my power to show—

I am Sire with the greatest esteem.

Your m^o. Ob^t. Serv^t

WILLIAM GROVES

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Present

⁴Major George Farragut.

⁵William Groves was a notary living in Washington, North Carolina. He was probably the same person who served as a lieutenant in Caswell's army and was listed as a resident of the New Bern district. *State Records of North Carolina*, X, 518; XVI, 1064; and Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 80.

*Benjamin Atkinson⁶ to John Gray Blount*BENSBOROUGH Jan^y. 31st 1791

Mr John Blount

D^r. Sir this will be handed you by Cap^t. Spain who is Skiper of my flat that is loaded with corn I have directed him to deliver on Board of Gorehams Brigg forty Barrels[.] the Remainder I wish to lend to you if you have any call for it, untill June Next[.] if you have not any use for it please to have it Stored on my own Acc^t. & send me Two Hundred Bushels of Turks Island Salt⁷ if you have any that is white and Clean and fit to Repack Barrel Pork, I also must beg the favour of you to make deligent Enquirey about the Tarr that was sunk by Harriss which was all Branded by Hines Except 26bb [26 barrels] which was not Inspect^d and Services in that Case will [be] Esteemed in the Higes degree and a Handsome Reward Given by Your Most Ob^t. H^m. Serv^t.

BENN ATKINSON

Addressed: Mr. Jn^o G Blount

Mercht

Washington

*John Baptista Ashe⁸ to Reading Blount*PHILADELPHIA Feb^y 10th. 1791

Dear Reading—

What in the name of God has become of you, or have you become perfectly amphibious, and taken up a permanent residence in a Mill run, a fore-boy, I Shou'd have said between me Reading, I shou'd be very glad to see you but dispair if I knew how, or what wou'd induce you to take an excursion to Halifax during my being home this Spring and Summer I chearfully wou'd contribute—it—can a fine corn, fed, rosey cheeck, hard

⁶For the identification of Atkinson see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 477n. 100. Atkinson often sent products for the Blounts to store in their warehouses or to load on some vessel ready for sea. Usually the Blounts sent such cargoes to Shell Castle to be shipped, but on some occasions seagoing vessels would be loaded directly from the wharf at Washington.

⁷Much of the salt used by North Carolinians for preserving foods was a coarse type obtained from Turk's Island or some other West Indian source. This salt was referred to as alum salt. Much of the finer salt was imported from Liverpool.

⁸John Baptista Ashe (1743-1802), a resident of Halifax, which he represented in the house of commons. He served under Nathanael Greene in the Revolutionary War and took an active part in politics. In addition to his service in the State legislature he represented North Carolina in the Congress of the Confederation. *Dictionary of American Biography*, I (1928), 386.

—Girl—induce you to plume and salley—if it can I've Several of this quallity runing about my neighborhood[.] you may war [sic] on them, Shingle-Weavers, Lawyers, or any Specie of profession you please to employ them in. I am told you have had electioneering raging to a great degree in your division: we are anxious to hear the result—Congress have been in Session upwards of two Months, and purpose adjourning on the 3rd. of next Month, and have pass'd on, two laws of National concern an excise law,⁹ which may truly be call'd one of National concern, for of all others, it is the most obnoxious And hostile to liberty, and the common peace of the Citizens—the other a Bank¹⁰ establishment

We are now on a Land office Bill¹¹ a perfect Lobbing [lobbying] piece of business. and I must assure you, there is more base Lobbing in this body than ever was exhibit'd in any other under the Sun—

Great health to you Reading And believe me your Affectionate friend

J. B. ASHE

Addressed: Reading Blount
Near Edenton
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH March 1st. 1791.

Mr. Blount

Sir the disappointments I have met with from the Watermen¹² has prevented my being down But I hope that I shall get another flatt Tomorrow which I shall hasten down to you, and in case that I am again disappointed I must Intreat you not to

⁹The excise tax, commonly known as the "Whiskey Tax," appeared as unjust and oppressive to the westerners as had the Stamp Act to the colonists. The reaction of the westerners is easily understood, but it was a bit more surprising to find an eastern North Carolinian so outspoken in opposition to the measure.

¹⁰The proposal to establish the first national bank, which action was opposed by James Madison.

¹¹The debates in Congress indicate much discussion of the land question but give no insight as to the kind or degree of lobbying which was going on. *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834), I, 427, 471, 646, 691, 692, 700; II, 1802.

¹²He is evidently referring to people who manned the large rafts called flats which would take goods down the Tar River to Washington to be loaded on seagoing vessels or to be sent to Shell Castle to be reloaded.



Courtesy of the Division of State Parks

SOMERSET PLACE

Josiah Collins, III, is said to have built this successor to the early Somerset Place. Josiah Collins, Sr., it is believed, had a share in establishing the earlier place in 1783. References in the John Gray Blount Papers show that Josiah Collins, Sr., owned extensive lands in this area.

be uneasy untill my own flat can come up again[,] I have given Cap^t. Spain charge to make no delay, I expect to send the Brigg to Philadelphia with leave to call at Norfolk for orders, in case that you doe not make too much Difference in the frieght could you change any Tarr for me and get Pitch I find it wou'd Answer me a Better purpose to Ship, I shou'd be glad that you wou'd not Concern with [attempt to obtain] M^r. Henryhams Turpentine for I find that it will not Answer to the Northward. I have sent by my flat 90 bb^s. more of Tarr and in case that I get the Flat I expect I shall be down on Sunday next

I am Sir with Respect Your Most ob^t. H^m. Serv^t.

B. ATKINSON

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount

Merch^t.

Washington

By Cap^t. Spain

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount¹³

BENSBOROUGH March 16th. 1791

M^r J. G. Blount

D^r. Sir Inclosed you have the whole of the Inspectors Notes for the Naval Stores that is down [at Washington] You will please to have them all coopered over and put in good order—Ship such part as you think Necessary on Board Ellisons Brigg and consign them to the care of your Friends in Philadelphia to Buy a Ton of Iron and a Sett of Smiths Tools agreeable to the Scheme Inclosed, or should you have heard or can you Judge of any Better Market for them than Philadelphia, I leave it to you to Ship them at your own discretion (there was no certain Number fixed on Between me & Ellison, but it was left as I cou'd make it convenient in geting them down[.] The Remainder you will Reserve to go on Board of Your Brig Bound to Ireland to make out the Scheme for Irish Linens[.] I shall continue sending

¹³This letter shows the part played by Blount in preparing and directing cargoes for vessels owned by other shippers as well as supervising the loading of his own vessels.

down Naval Stores untill Your Brigg is loaded I am Sire Respectfully Y^r. most

Ob^t. H^{um}. Ser^t.

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

By M^r Spain

John Willis to John Gray Blount

LUMBERTON¹⁴ 8th April 1791

Dear Sir, The Sheriff of this County is Solicited by a Number of People to Leve [levy] on & sell your Lands for the Taxes—I have been able to prevail with him to for bear till now, but he was with me this morning & says that he will Wait no Longer, however I have got him to Wait 'till I can hear from you, the Treasurers Rec^t. will be Satisfactory to him, You will please write me that I may say something to him if it is convenient the Sooner it is paid the better the Tax is 1/6 [1s. and 6d.] P^r. 100 Acres¹⁵

I am dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

J WILLIS

Jn^o G Blount

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Beaufort County

Mail

Thomas Blount to [Sam Simpson]

TARB^o 17th ap^r 1791

8 o'Clock at night

Dear Sr.

By a Letter this Evening recd from Col. Ashe I am informed that the President of the United States [George Washington]

¹⁴Lumberton is located in Robeson County, North Carolina, south of the Cape Fear River, not far from the South Carolina line.

¹⁵The correspondence of the Blounts shows how extensively the English money system was used after the political separation from England.

arrived last night at Halifax & the inference is, that he will pass through this Town, but on that head my Informant is altogether Silent. I give you this information at the request of Major [Charles] Gerrard who is gone to Hillsborough & expect you will repair to this place with your Troop of Horse to escort his Excellency through Pitt County—If he should come this way, it is probable he will reach here on Tuesday night at farthest. If you cannot bring your whole Troops it is my opinion that it will be proper to come by that time with as many as can be ready—

Yours friendly
THO. B BLOUNT

Benjamin Atkins to John Gray Blount

[May 23, 1791]

Mr. J Blount

Sir you will please to Take a Receipt or Bill of Loading from Cap^t. Degg's for me as he hath not yet got in all his Cargo I have concluded to send him to Tobago & Trinidad and then to try the Rest of the Islands if they [the products] do not seel [sell] he is to Try on, a [as] many as Six Ports¹⁶ on my paying half the Port charges after the trying at the second Port[.] fr[e]ight is agreed on at 1 doller for every Barrel [of] five Bushels each[.] you will please to do this Business for me & charge me for your Trouble and your favour will be Acknowledged By your Most ob^t. H^m. Ser^t.

BEN ATKINSON

May 23^d 1791

P S should you hear of any Better markets direct him as you think best—B. Atkinson

Addressed: Mr J. G Blount

Washington

By Cap^t Diggs [sic]

¹⁶This method of seeking markets was often employed by supercargoes sent to the West Indies. If several vessels happened to put in at the same port the market was soon glutted and sales became difficult. This necessitated a change of markets.

Peter Mallett¹⁷ to John Gray Blount

POINT PETER NEAR WILMINGTON—June 13th 1791

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Dear Sir

Your brother [William Blount] the Governor wrote me in November last to purchase the lands belonging to the heirs of the late General Moore in the Western Country at 100 dollars p^r. thousand or ten hundred dollars for ten thousand acres the quantity of land your brother mentions supposing then $\frac{1}{4}$ given for the location at that time, that sum or near it would not obtain the land. but now James the heir is immediately distressed^d. and has been with me this morning is agreed to take 100 dollars a thousand payable to his Creditors here. in Negeoe [negotiable] money. & a bill on Jam^a. [Jamaica, sic] which enables me now to make the purchase, the Governor however is mistaken in the quantity for this is 12.000 acres land by the papers shewn me. of course 1200 dollars is the price.—I should be glad of your advise on the business. before our Court here the first Monday in July. for as I had written before the uncertainty of the purchase I am unwilling to enter into the engagement without your approbation

Your most obed^t. humble

Servant. P MALLET

N B

or if James Moore fineally will take ten hundred dollars am I to make the bargain[?]

[No address.]

*William Blount to Charles Pinckney**

TREATY GROUND ON THE BANK OF THE HOLSTON NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE FRENCH BROAD, July 8th., 1791

Dear Sir,

I embrace the opportunity by Capt Spring to inform you that on the 2^d. Instant at this place I formed a Treaty on the part of the United States with the Cherokees—The Articles are nearly

¹⁷For a sketch of Peter Mallett see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 33n. 5.

*An original letter from The McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee.

the same as those of the Creek Treaty except the one which fixes the Boundary—The Boundary is not as good as I could wish but it is the best I could obtain—The Chiefs left me well pleased and I have great Hopes that the Treaty will long be preserved on both sides inviolable—Be pleased to present my most respectful compliments to General Pinckney and believe me dear Sir with much esteem,

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
WILLIAM BLOUNT

His Excellency Governor Pinckney
South Carolina
Addressed: His Excellency Charles Pinckney esquire
South Carolina
Capt. Spring

Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON July 13th. 1791

Dear Sir

I could not sooner answer your last letter because I had not finenally closed the matter with James Moore. their was no delaying the matter. and he was under the necessaty of paying the money this County term [of Court]. and another person stood ready for the land. I have paid him the 1000 dollars and closed the bargain. it will be well that you get from the Secur^y. [Secretary's, sic] Office the Paterns and send me that his deed with them shall be had—

I have Suits on our Sup^r. Court docket to amount [of] £6,000 some have been entered for these five years. every Court I expect to obtain Judgments and without doubt the next Term more or less will be had: out of the first, the ball^e. on my bond in your hands now, shall be paid. I have nothing more certain to say than these. which most certainly [2] Will come into your hands sooner than any law steps.¹⁸ I have to be sure several other Con-

¹⁸Mallett seems to have been trying to forestall a lawsuit by the Blounts to whom he was in debt.

tracts. but here nothing seems certain but executions—of these things it will be well to advice your brother [William] the very first conveyance

With respect I am yours &c.

P MALLETT

NB I go for Hillsborough on Sunday next

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

Jul^y the 25th. 1791

BENSBOROUGH

Mr. John Blount Sir/. I have sent down by Mr. Spain 99 bb^s. Tarr which I have endeavoured to have in order to ship I expect Harrisses Flax here to load Tommorow I wou'd thank you to hurry them up again as quick as possible, as soon as Cap^t. Spain can come up and go down again I shall endeavour to come down in order to to let you you know where the Brigg is to deliver her Cargo, the Remainder of the Tarr is now all coopered over and Ready to send down[.] I have sent a man on express to Virginia to know the Price of Naval Stores there and to get advice from my Friends there where to Ship them[.] I expect him to Return on Tuesday Next[.] I hope that you will not be Impatient as the Brigg lies at your own Warf and [I] Suppose that the hands need not be Idle[.] I shall Bring down the whole of the Inspectors Notes when I come, I expect that I shall be in want of some Rum and wish to have some of that you had from Cap^t. Lombard if it is not sold before I get down I am Sire Respectfully Y^{rs}. &c

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: Mr J G Blount Merch^t

Washington

By Cap^t Spain

Rufus G. Amory to John Gray Blount

BOSTON Nov^r 16 1791

Sir

At the desire of Cap^tⁿ. Thomas Nemmo I have attached a Schoner called the Royal Captain belonging to Henry Ross at your suit—this was founded on Cap^tⁿ. Nimmo's assurance that

you was a large Creditor of Ross who had impos'd on your confidence in him¹⁹—sundry circumstances render'd Cap^t. Nimmo's representation highly probable and I accordingly at his desire issued a Writ of Attachment in your name—he engaging that you would seasonably furnish a Power of Attorney and Evidence I must have a Pow^r by the 23^d January and request that you would immediately forward the same in order to support the attachment[.] I Shall take every Step that will be least prejudicial to Ross consistent with your security—you will please (if approv'd) *immediately* to send a Power of Attorney both by Post & by Water—I hope if nothing material occurs to secure something but the object will not be great—hoping to be favour'd with your instant reply

Am Your Obed^t. Serv^t.

RUFUS G. AMORY

John Grey Blunt Esq^r

Washington

North Carolina

Addressed: M^r. Jn^o. Grey Blount

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

James Cole Mountfloreance²⁰ to William Blount

PHILADELPHIA November 17th. 1791

Sir

On friday last the 11th. instant I was honored with your two Letters, & acknowledge the Receipt of the Bill for 250 Dollars inclosed in One of them for which Favor, I request you will accept of my grateful thanks I would have been by this time

¹⁹Defection in ship captains was not usual. When the amount of business and the great liberty given them in the sale of cargoes is taken into consideration, it is a bit surprising to find the apparently high degree of integrity among them. Many of the captains engaged in this trade had small financial resources and less education.

²⁰During the Revolutionary War in America there was a plan to raise a French regiment in North Carolina and Mountfloreance was named captain. Although the plan was abandoned, Mountfloreance served as brigade major and then as a lieutenant colonel under William R. Davie, by whom he was highly regarded. When the war ended he settled in North Carolina and kept a school at New Bern where he taught "Greek, Latin and French languages with arithmetic, the principles of mathematics, Geography and Book-keeping." Mountfloreance had been educated at the University of Paris. He was a member of the house of commons and represented Davidson County in the Fayetteville Convention. During the 1790's he was employed as a land agent for the Blounts. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIII, 335; XV, 540-541; XXII, 45, 47. The Draper Papers (McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee), IV, 42; Wagstaff, *John Steele Papers*, I, 181n. 1.

near North Carolina, had it not been for a Circumstance, which has somewhat detained me Doc^r. [Hugh] Williamson on the Presentment of the Draft, assured me he would pay it, as soon as he would be in Cash, whether coming from You, or of his own, but would not put his Name to it; this prevented me from negotiating the Paper, indeed I could not think of offering it to a Stranger—Mess^{rs}. Thomas & Taylor being informed of the Circumstance, politely assured me they would discount the Bill, had they been in Pork; but by their friendly Exertion I expect that I will get the Amount from a common friend, these Gentlemen having pledged themselves to honor the Bill, when it should become due, in case M^r. Williamson did not do the Needful; therefore Expecting this Negociation to be compleated in a few Days, I will immediately proceed on to Washington—

I am very happy to find, Sir, that my Plan has meet with Your Approbation & that of your Brothers, & have no Doubt but what it will prove highly interesting & Beneficial to the Persons concerned; I must acknowledge myself under great Obligation to You for the Terms on which you mention that you intend the Business should be conducted [2] I have followed closely your Directions, Sir, in not communicating our intended Operations²¹—

Your Treaty²² is ratified & promulgated by Proclamation—The Senate, notwithstanding the Resolve of the Legislature of North Carolina remain impenetrable which has given Rise to a Number of humourous & Sacarstical [Sarcastically] poetical Effusions which are handed about

I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Sir

Your Excellency

Most Obedient & most humble

Servant

J. C. MOUNTFLORENCE

His Excellency W^m Blount

[No address]

²¹The plan was for him to go to France to direct trade for the Blounts and to sell lands to French purchasers who would be transported in the Blount vessels to North Carolina, where they would be given aid in making settlements on western lands.

²²See William Blount's account of his treaty with the Indians (Cherokees), July 2, 1791 in letter to Charles Pinckney, July 8, 1791, page 170, above.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

—————, November 22, 1791

William Blount remarks that the £1000 within charged was advanced to him as Commissioner for holding Indian Treaties (not Agent) that he accounted for it with the General Assembly in 1787 at Tarboro. as will appear by their Journal and that there was a Balance of £595.17.7½ due from him which he has paid as appears by the Credit side of this Acct.—The other two Sums were advanced or paid him for his services as Agent (not Commr.) that is the first was an advance and the last a Payment after the Service was performed and my acct. filed with the Governor and Council.—On this statement the Comptroller informed me that the Solicitor had founded his attachment against me and such I believe to be the fact.—Now I conceive I do not owe the State a Farthing on this account but I do justly owe her for some Tea²³ sold by Toopor and Natt for which I received the Money in the amount stated on my Books and I owe her for some Linen sold by Mr Abner Neale, the amount I do not recollect but see his acct. of Sales—It is to be observed Neale has never paid me the money these Linens sold for nor no part thereof. I suppose he will pay it when demanded. I wish these two Sums paid into the Hands of the Treasurer as early as may be and a Receipt to be taken expressing that it has been paid as the Proceeds of the Sales of the Tea and Linen—The Treasurer²⁴ and myself spoke on the Subject at Hillsboro, and he is willing to receive it without interest and if I am sued for it I shall surely have to pay Interest for several years at least—£150. I should be glad it would be paid before the Assembly sat but this can't be but I depend that it will be done before the Sitting of the next Halifax Superior Court—Pray give Neale Notice to pay you the money for the Linnen.—If it is not paid & the Solicitor²⁵ finds it out he will bring that in when he finds

²³By an agreement with Alexander Martin in 1783 John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, were to furnish goods to the State of North Carolina to help the State to secure a favorable treaty with the Indians. This contract was later accepted by Richard Caswell, who was governor at the time. The Blounts purchased the goods and sent them to Charleston from where they were to be carried overland to the place of treaty. William Blount claimed that he was unable to obtain wagons to get the goods delivered in time for the treaty. When the goods finally arrived he tried to salvage losses by trading the goods. See William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 8, 1787, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 307; and *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, page 582; XVIII, pages 524-525, 554-556, 646-647; XX, pages 402-406.

²⁴John Haywood, who was inclined to be too lenient at times with his friends.

²⁵John Haywood of Halifax, not to be confused with John Haywood, the treasurer.

he can't make good my being indebted on the acct. as stated.—
Nov^r. 22^d 1791

WM. BLOUNT

Copy

D^r. William Blount esquire Agent on Indian Treaties
with the State of N^o. Carolina. C^{rs}.

1785

July 23. To Cash for the Governors Warrants towards his
Expenses in attending Treaties..... 160.0.0
August 23. To 7 Warrants issued by the Governor on the Treas-
ury towards purchasing articles for the Indian
Treaty 1000.0.0

1786

March 23. To 1 Warrant No. 194 issued by Do towards expenses
attending Treaties 232.12
£ 1392.12.0

1786

Oct. 11. By John G & Thomas Blount for Cash paid them in
full of their account settled for Goods delivered
William Blount for holding Treaties with the In-
dians 31.9.9

1788

Dec^r. 5. By Cash paid John Haywood Treasurer as per his
Certificate 595.17.77½
627.7.4½

North Carolina Comptrollers office Oct 3^d 1791. I certify that
the above is a true Copy of the amount of William Blount esquire
as Agent in Indian Treaties as it stands on the Books in their
office—

Subscribed

FRANCES CHILD Comp^{tr}.

W^m Blount

to

J. G. Blount respecting
Tea, Linnen etc etc
Nov 22^d 1791

*Thomas Russell to John Gray & Thomas Blount**

Boston Decem^r 28, 1791

Gentlemen

Yesterday the Sloop Patty [commanded by] Captain W^m. Worth, Arrived here, and handed me your favour of 2 Instant covering Invoice' & bills of Lading for 20 Casks Spirits of Turpentine 50 Barrels of Resin 30 barrels of pitch & 5^m white Oak hgg^d Staves also 200 barrels of Turpentine—the whole shall be disposed of to your best advantage [and] the proceed held agreeable to your desire subject to your order, except the proceed of the Turpentine—which shall be sent you in New E. [New England] Rum, by Cap^t. Worth, if he Returns to your ports again, if not. I will embrace some other Oppertunity—the Turpentine I have sold—as Landed out of the Vessell at [2] at Eleven Shillings a barrel—such is [the market?] plenty of this Article [that] it is Retaild at [——] a single Barrel—the Resin I have [disposed of, sic] at 18/ a barrel—the W. O. [White Oak] hgs^d Staves say [at] 3^m. 7^d. & 16 Cost of merchantable @ £6 a^m 1-2 _ 24 Cost of Refuse @ half price 3 £ a^m the Spirits of Turpentine. I shall be obliged to Store—I can get only 2/ offered for it—the pitch, I expect to Store—as I cannot get any offer for it—Tar, is in demand Readily sells at 13/ a barrel—I gave this price my self for 20 barrels out of Cap^t Worth, Vessell

I fear you will loose money by the Shipment you have made me—

I Remain Gentlemen

your most obed^t Serv^t

THOM^s. RUSSELL

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho^s. Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

Addressed: Mess^r J. G & Tho. Blount

Washington

North Carolina

* The manuscript is badly torn.

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. 29th Dec^r 1791

Dear Sir

Yours of 16th. Inst with the Certificates came to Hand the 27th but my Embarasments had been removed a fortnight before that Time by the Arrival of my own Certificates. I believe I wrote you that my whole Difficulty arose from the Circumstance of my own Property being under Embargo in M^r Skinner's²⁶ Office. Not having sold any of the Certificates you sent me I do not know what will be the Proceedes of 647.37 Principal & 415.2 Interest nor do I know precisely what you mean by it. I suppose you mean 431.58/100 Dls 6 PC^t 215.79 Dls deferd sixes & 415.2 Three PCts. If this is the meaning or whatever else it may be, calculate the Value by the Price current as you find it in the Paper 22/9.13/6 & 13/4 and if you have immediate need of the Money draw on me at ten days for the Amo^t. and the Bill shall be paid.

You have neglected to send me the retail Price of British Goods in Carol^a. or the Advance in Currency on the Sterling cost, supposing the Sale to be for Specie.

Pray what has Gov^r Blount done with [2] his House in Greeneville.²⁷ I ask because I should like to take it and make it my Home when in the State being determined to make a serious Essay to establish one or more Manufactures in that Country.

I am D^r SirYour obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

John G Blount Esq^r.Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

²⁶William Skinner, United States Commissioner of Loans in North Carolina. See Letters for 1790, page 144*n*. 209, above, for identification.

²⁷William Blount had moved from Piney Grove to Greeneville prior to his departure for the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

*James Cole Mountfloreance*²⁸ to John Gray Blount

ON BOARD THE RUSSELL²⁹ the 22^d. Jan^y. 1792

Dear Sir

I could not have formed any Idea of the Business to be done with advantage at your Castle,³⁰ had I not been an Eye-Witness of the Same—You are losing daily tho' a great deal, for want of another Lighter;³¹ I made the Remark to the Governor,³² who informed me, that You had in contemplation of building another, much larger than the one now made use of—You would reap a double Advantage by having two lighters here, As they would be most constantly employed; the first by getting more Money in lighting Vessels over the Swatch, & taking out a lager [larger] Quantity of Ballast to the Castle, which ought to be a chief object—the Governor has been compelled to refuse Ballast, & Money for lighting whilst we were here, having part of our Cargo a board of his Sloop—Could Your Square-rigged Vessels unload here, & find their outward bound Cargoes ready at the Castle, you would save a great deal of Expence & time, & run less risk—I am also strongly of your Opinion that a Ship—Chandler's Shop, Kept at the Castle would be a very profitable Business, and it is a pity you have not yet come across a Suitable Person to prosecute so lucrative a Plan—

[2] I must express to You, Sir, my Acknowledgements for Cap^t. Smith's³³ polite Behaviour & Attention to me, & am sure that my Passage with him will be as agreeable as the Circumstances will permit; at Madeira or Cadiz, I will endeavor to assist him, all in my power, on account of your Interest, & to testify to him my Gratitude for his very particular Kindness—at the first Port we will touch, I shall have the Honer of writing to you by Every Vessel bound to the United States, the Occurrences of such place, having due Regard to the Matters you chiefly wish to be informed of—I request you would present my most

²⁸For a sketch of Mountfloreance see page 173*n*. 20, above.

²⁹The *Russell* was one of the Blount's brigantines which was often used for shipments to the West Indies and Europe.

³⁰Shell Castle, near Ocracoke Inlet. See picture in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 462.

³¹A small craft used to lighten the load of a larger vessel to enable it to cross the swashes and the bar at Ocracoke.

³²John Wallace was often called Governor. He was proprietor and part owner of Shell Castle.

³³The captain of the *Russell*.

respectful Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & Miss [Lucy] Harvey,
& I have the Honer to be with high Esteem

D^r Sir Your most Obedient &
most humble Servant
J. C. MOUNTFLORENCE

If the Wind favors, we will probably put out to Sea on the 24th.
Instant—[3]Herewith I have taken the Liberty of troubling you
with a Letter for my friend Col^o. [Abijah] Thomas, which I re-
quest you to be so obliging as to send to the Post-Office—

J. C. M.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 5th Feb^y. 1792

Dear Sir

I wrote you pretty early in the last Month that you might
draw on me @ 10 days Sight for 1000 Dlsr. As you have Oc-
casion for Money I hope you have drawn accordingly; Dav^d Alison
Gov Blounts private Sec^y has been here with his Acco^{ts} and
Vouchers and the Acco^{ts} are all passed with great Ease. I sent
him a small Balance which was due (130 Dlsr) for his Contingent
Expenses. I shall send him Via Manchester some Nail Rods say
500 W^t as soon as the River is navigable & shall send some
fifty or sixty Dlsr worth of Articles to M^{rs} Granger³⁴ M^{rs} Harvey
& the Children according to a Memorandum he gave M^cCabe.
This I shall pass to a new Acco^t. for I have Balanced his old
Acco^t of which I shall send you a Copy when I have Time to trans-
cribe it, including the Acco^t Sales of your Certificates. Perhaps
you have heard that we have just appointed a Minister to go to
the Court of Madrid³⁵ to negotiate for the Navigation of the Mis-

³⁴Mrs. Caleb Grainger, the mother-in-law of William Blount. The "Mrs. Harvey" was probably Ann Blount Harvey, a sister of William Blount. Blount's family remained in his home at Greenville for some time after he assumed his duties as Governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. She later joined the Blounts in Knoxville, where she died in 1800. Betsy Beeler Creekmore, *Knoxville* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1958), 43.

³⁵William Carmichael was minister to Spain until 1794. *Dictionary of American Biography*, III (1929), 497-498.

issippi and it is now generally understood that Spain is disposed to treat on [2] reasonable Terms. This Measure will Do no harm to our Lands in the western Country.

The Map is in the Hands of the Engraver.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

P. S. Be so good as seal the inclosed to Gen^l Armstrong after you have read it and tell me what is to be expected from those Estates.

M^r Ray 'tother Day desired me to draw on him for 20/ in the Pound of a Debt due by a Bankrupt.

Addressed: Jn^o. G. Blount Esqr.

[Washington, sic]

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE, February 12th, 1792

Dear Sir/

I have inquired the Charecter of the young man you wrote me about, and think he will ans^r our purpose better then any other Person—I will go to Beaufort and See him as soon as I can—you may Send the articales hear and I will get him, I hope you do not think of Tusting [trusting, selling on credit] of any thing at this place if you do we Shall do nothing. I wrote you for some fatt hogs. I would wish to have had them, But Suppose you could not Send them Vanorden owes us money, if he will send Some Down in his Brig or Sloop. I will Lighter for them. I have Seen my Father Lately, and have hiered Perry of him for 22 Barrels of Corn, as Long as my Father Lives. the People near me have Been trying to get him from us, and I thought it Best to make Shore of him—

I much Pleased at Scheeme of Diging the Swash. do forwarded all you can if you can Send to my Father 22 Barrels of Corn do, or Let me Know and I will Look out. Some whear Else.—

I am much obliged to you for Sending my Boat Down, for the young men [are] Complaining of having too many master[s]

[2] I do not understand that part of their Complaint however I am Glad you got Garnsey again for he Beets [is better than] me,

My Respects to M^{rs}. Blount, and tell her the Beds ticks is now weaving. they would have Been done before this but was a deal Plagued [we had trouble] in geting the Stuff died

I [am] happy to hear that young [Young] is begun our Lighter.³⁶ do hurry her all you can, and write me whether I Shall Send for Canvas for her, or you, I want to See you Very much. we want Corn

I am with Esteem your

Very Hum^l Se^t

JOHN WALLACE

I wish the Remainder of the Staves could be Shiped by Some means or other

JW

SHELL CASTLE

February 12th 1792

[3]

I wish to hear something about the Stakes but can not J.W
[Address torn off.]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a 16 Feb^y 1792

Dear Sir

Your Draft for 400 Dlrs fav^r Henniham was presented to day. As I desired you to draw for 1000 Dlrs this will be paid of Course. The Gen^l Assembly has instructed its Senators & Representatives to endeavour to have Justice done to the Grantees of Land under Warrants issued from Armstrongs Office, The Petition of The Trustees of the University [of North Carolina] respecting their Lands on forked Deer³⁷ also the Petition of Claimants under [Richard] Henderson &c are forwarded but the Petition of the other Citizens nor a Copy of the same is not forwarded. I suppose the Stupid Clerks of the Assembly have carry'd off the Petition and we shall hear nothing of it. The Patience of

³⁶Young was apparently building a small craft for them. Henry Tuley usually built vessels for the Blounts.

³⁷The Forked Deer River is in the extreme western part of the State of Tennessee. It forms a confluence with the Obion before flowing into the Mississippi.

Job could hardly prevent him from swearing at such Jack Asses. That they should have sent us a Copy of the Petition of the surviving Partners of Henderson who [2] complain of the loss of 100,000 A^s of Land and the Trustees who have lost 20,000 A^s and should not have sent the Copy of the Petition of the other Grantees who have lost near 4 Millions³⁸ is not to be accounted for but by saying that no Body seems to Care about great Things. all the Object is small Things.

I think you had best send on your Certificates of all Sorts. I think I can get full as much for them here as ever you will be able to make out of them by keeping them longer. I do not hear of Gov^r Blounts Power of Attorney, but have sundry Letters from him since his Arrival at Home.

The Cherokees are in a very good Temper as appears—They are to set out Homeward by the End of this Week by Land. They tell the Pres^{dt} that Gov^r Blount has treated them with great Fairness, but they wanted a little more Money which they have got.

[3] If you have a Copy of the Petition of the Land Owners on the Mississippi, send it me. If it be a true Copy I do not care about the Names.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

[No address.]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 23rd Feb^r 1792

Dear Sir

This Days Post brought me yours of 8th Inst: The Stupid or rascally Clerks have neglected to send me a copy of the Petition of the Grantees of Land from Armstrongs Office. The Vote of Assembly respecting that Petition I had received. If you have a true Copy of the Petition pray send it.

³⁸Richard Henderson and others who had laid claims to large portions of western lands were in difficulties when the government decided to pay soldiers of the Revolutionary War in lands lying in the area of their claims. The grants for soldiers often overlapped the private claims. Following the Treaty of Holston, lands were reserved for the Cherokee Indians also. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, IV, 108, 191-193.

I wrote you some Time ago that I wished to take your Brother Williams House in Greenville if not occupy'd but am since informed that M^{rs} Granger remains there: In fact I wish to take some Place or have a lodging in one of those Counties & to pay a Tax in Order to establish a legal Residence in Case I should hereafter wish to have made such Provision. Perhaps our next Assembly may take it into their Heads to resolve, for they have queer Heads, [2] that a Candidate must [have] been twelve Months Resident in the District for which he stands or some such Twist for the Sake of fitting or unfitting individuals.³⁹ Cannot some Arrangement be made on this Head?

I much fear that some Things I wished & hoped to see finished will not be finished during this Sitting nor perhaps during the present Congress.

I am D^r Sir with the utmost Respect

Y^{rs} HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

[No address.]

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

CEDIR ISLAND, F^y. 27th. 1792

Sir/ I am so fair [far] on my Passage home from Beaufort with the Boy, and am now Ready to Receive any thing you will Send, I Give him fourty Dollars for the first Year, it was what he he asked. I want you to Send me Two Barrels Pork one for the Castle, and one to be Charged to me. it [is] for my father, I send and [an] Order by Andrew Willis for my Fathers Corn—he Says he will Bring it Down

In hast

yours &^c

JOHN WALLACE

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Merch^t.

Washington

Capt. King

³⁹Criticism of Williamson as a non-resident was fairly general. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, January 5, 1790, page 1, above.

*John M^c. Kim to John Gray Blount*BALTIMORE March 4th. 1792John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Sir

Thinking you Might Charter Your Brig for Ireland, or England, this Spring I Take this opp^y. to Trouble you with makeing the Inquirey, If you will Charter her, How much p^r. Bbl, and what time will she be Ready for to Take in A Cargo,

If you should at any time be Inclined to do any Business this way, would be Glad to have it in my power to serve you or any of your Friends, Hopeing your Family is Well I am Sir—

Your ob^t Ser^t.JN^o. M^cKIM JUN^r.

P. S. Our Navigation is in Tirely shut up with the Ice yet⁴⁰, but Expect it will be Opened in a few Days

JMK

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merch^t.

Washington

N Carolina

*John Smith to John Gray Blount*SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA⁴¹ March 8th 1792

Sir/

This will Inform you of my arrival at this port the 7 of this Instant, after a Passage of Forty one Days from the barr where I was Oblige^d to put into for the Safty of the Vessel, particularly from Every appearence thought it to be Cadiz bay—I have met with the loss of the Small bower Anchor⁴² at the Entrence of this port, Where I was oblig^d. to Anchor for want of a pilotater, however, I believe M^r. Montflorenc with my Self have Taken the proper Steps to Secure the Ensurence Herewith you have the true Coppy of the Protest, with an acct of Every Charge At-tending in Coming in to this port[.] Shall proceed Round to

⁴⁰Eastern ports often closed during the winter months because of the ice on the rivers.

⁴¹An old seaport of Spain located on the Guadalquivir River, north of Cadiz. Much trade was carried on here.

⁴²A small anchor carried in the bow of the ship to be used as a spare anchor.

Cadiz the first wind that Offers; the prices at this port on Cadiz I am not able to Inform you of at present but Shall wright you more in full by the next Vessel that Sails—the Reason I Give for not Touching at Madiera was that the weather being So Boisterious, and the Vessel proving So Leaky, thought it avisable not to Detain the Vessel to Looock for it[.] Sir I Remain

Your

most ob^t. H^l.Ser^t

JOHN SMITH

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington
North Carolina

Oliver Smith to John Gray Blount

[GREENVILLE, March 14, 1792]

Sirs

I have Sent some Navel Stores by James Easton^s Flatt which is in bad order for the want of a Cooper Shall take it as a Peticular favour if you will Let your coopers put it in Shipping order and I will Satisfy you for it when I come down, I want to frate a Vessel for norfolk. Shall send down the Load as fast as I can get flats to carry it, if you have any Vessel you wish to frate please to inform me by M^r. Jas. Easton or if you no [know] of any I Shoul^d be Glad to frate amediately from your frind And Humb S^t—

OLIVER SMITH

Green Vile March 14 1792

M^r. John G. Blunt

Addressed: M^r John G Blunt

Mercht—

Washington

Grover Wright to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE 14 March 1792

Sir,

I have Sent down by M^r. Easton 27. Barrels more Turpentine & 17 Barrels Pich [pitch] To Ship with you to New York, agree-

able to your proposals; 150 Barrels is what you agreed to Carrey, But if it's Convenient, I'd be glad to Send more, (Cand have it Ready Any day)—I mut [must] get you (if you please to) [to] Let your Coopers put it in Shipping order for me, I have Sent down part of a Bbl. Turpentine to fill up with—. If you Can Carrey more than the 150 Bbl. I wish you'd let me Know of it, and how Soon you wish it sent down—

from your Hbl. Serv^t

G WRIGHT

GreeneVille 14 March—1792

Say 10 Bbl down)
 27 Ditto)
 — 17 d°. Pich)

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
 P. M^r. Easton) Washington

James Cole Mountflorencia to John Gray Blount

CADIZ-BAY 14th. March 1792

N^o. 1

D^r Sir

Being informed of a Vessel sailing to day for Norfolk in Virginia, & desirous of fulfilling my Promise of writing to you by Every Opportunity, You cannot expect much Information from this first Letter of Mine, as We have not had yet leave to go ashore, tho' it is near Twenty four hours since we are come to Anchor in this Bay—As Cap^t. Smith tells me he write you fully by this Vessel, I shall not repeat any thing about the Passage only my Acknowledgements for the Captain's very polite & Kind Attentions to me ever Since I came on Board—I hope that you will be pleased with the Steps he took at Sanlucar di Barrameda about 5 or 6 leagues from this place, respecting the Loss of the Anchor & the extra Expences accruing to the Vessel being forced into that Harbour—

In a few Weeks I may expect to be in Paris by the Number of Vessels here bound to Every part of Europe—Matters are still very much unsettled in france, & my Expectations as sanguine

as ever⁴³—I shall write You more fully by the first American Vessel—My most respectful Comp^{lts}. to M^{rs}. Blount & believe me with very high Esteem

D^r. Sir

Your most obed^t. &
most humble Serv^t.

J. C. MOUNTFLORENCE

[2] Please to direct to Me in the following Manner

Mas^r. Mountflorenc

Poste-restante

a Paris

The Bills of Health must mention Every Soul a Board of the Vessel, & not only that there is no epimede' [epidemic] Disordare at the place the Vessel Sails from, but [that?] none of the Persons aboard either of the Crew or p[assengers] have any contagious Disorders—Had we not put into San-Lucar, where they are not so strict as here, we might possibly have been constrained to perform *Quarantine*, here, our Bill of Health not being in due form—

I shall affix a number to all my Letters, that you may Know if any should Miscarry —

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Post-Master, Washington

North-Carolina

Rec'd Philad^a. 30th Apl forewared 1st. May 1792 by

Yr. Obt. Sert.

A THOMAS

Thomas Russell to Hugh Williamson

BOSTON March 15th 1792.

Sir,

A few days ago I received a Letter from Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho^a. Blount, under the 5th Feb^y.—requesting me to give you emmediate notice of the probable amount of a Consignment they made me by the Sloop Patty[,] William Worth Master—some

⁴³Mountflorenc hoped to sell western lands for the Blounts on a commission.

of the Articles remain unsold—as near as I can guess the proceeds will be about £130. £M1/ these Gentlemen have also sent me a draft on M^r R. G. Amory for £45—which is paid—they desire me to hold the whole subject to your order. which I accordingly do. you will appropriate it as you think proper.

I am Sir with sentiments of Esteem

Your most obedt Servant

THOM^s. RUSSELL

The 'Hon'ble

Hugh Williamson Esq^r

Philadelphia

[2] [Hugh Williamson's reply to Russell]

Philad^a. March 27th 1792

Sir

Yours of 15th Inst. is at Hand. I have accordingly credited the Acco^t of Jn^o G. & Tho^s Blount with 583 1/3 Dlsr. The Course of Exch: does not render Bills to the Eastward in frequent Demand, but I shall probably in a few Days be accommodated through the Bank or the Treasury and shall draw in their favour for the Amo^t

I have the Honor to be

&c

Tho^s Russell Esq

Addressed: The Honorable

Hugh Williamson Esqr.

Member of Congress

Philadelphia

John Smith to John Gray Blount

CADIZ March 15th 1792

Sir/

I arriv^d. at this port from San Lucar de Barrameda the 13 of this Instat, where agreeable to your advice have Value^d on the house of Dominick Terry &c., one of the firm of this House is a Gentleman he Says of your Acquaintance by the name of Welch, who was in Washington Last June, in a very low State of Health—I have the promise of Every Dispatch They possible

can give me, but fearing most of the Cargo will meet but a Slow Sale, Say the navel Stores in particular, however Herewith you have the prices Current of the principle things that meet with Sale at this port as near as Could be had at present but I Flatter my Self we Shall be able to obtain more than the preices Here-with—between 11th and 14th of February Sending in a very heavy gale of Wind from the NW Quarter of the Compass. found the Brig to make so much water that Occationed one pump almost Constantly a going—and what Supprizes me Continues to Leak Very much⁴⁴—you need not be under know [no] Apprehension with Respect to the Algraruns [Algerians], therefore Shall not write for Ensurence with out a freight offers [2] Salt[.] If the Brig is not Sold Shall Ballast with Salt, as it Can be had on board as Cheap as other ballast—I am Flattered with the hopes of taking of money, but If that Should be impractable am Informed that bills on London Can be had, Sir please to give my Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount &^c and Remain

your most

Ob^t Hⁱ Se^t

JOHN SMITH

I got my anchor with the Expençe of 2 bbls only before I left San Lucar—JS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Post Master, Washington
North Carolina

Dominick Terry & Company to John Gray Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^{re}.
Washington

CADIZ 19 March 1792

Copy*

Sir

We avail ourselves of an opportunity for Philadelphia to advise y^e. arrival of y^e Brig Russell y^e. 13th. Instant after a Passage of 42 days and having put into S^t. Lucar[.] Capⁿ. Smith having valued himself on us we have already disposed of a Part

⁴⁴The vessels built in North Carolina sometimes gave trouble on an ocean voyage.

*The original of this letter is in the John Gray Blount Papers, but this was chosen in preference because it has the postscript.

of his Cargo, and we are continuing our endeavours to sell what remains in the best manner we can but some of the Articles of which it is composed are very difficult to be get rid of [sell] here, and such as may not sell must go back to you, as it would never do to land them—and pay the duty, some of y^e. Naval Stores will undoubtedly be in this Predicament, yet you may rest assured of our exertions to do the best for you and to give all possible dispatch to the Vessel. Our Partner M^r. Peter Walsh who is now here, & presents his compliments to you, remembers having advised you not to meddle with many Articles which you have shipt in this occasion, by the return of y^e. Russell we shall be able to point out more precisely to you such as may be adviseable to send in future, & in the Interim we remain very sincerely,

CADIZ 16th. April 1792

Sir

On the 19th. ult^o. we had the pleasure to advise the arrival of your Brig Russell, which is now ready for Sea,⁴⁵ & we must refer you to Capⁿ. Smith for all matters relative to her Cargo, flattering ourselves to have given him Satisfaction in the sale thereof, & with respect to further Shipments, he is now acquainted [2] with the nature of this Market, & can point Out to you what answer's best, & can moreover Satisfy you with respect to us, & the degree of Confidence we are entitled to, having to assure you that any you may be pleased to favour us with shall be most gratefully attend for [attended to], & your Interest allways most Zealously attended to—We have put Several Letters on board the Russell, of which we request your care in forwarding agreeable to directions, & Remain with Esteem Sir Your most ob^t Hble S^{ts}

DOM. TERRY & COM^y.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqre.
Washington
N^o. Carolina

⁴⁵The long period needed to dispose of a cargo increased the cost of the shipment.

Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 29 March 1792

Mess^{rs} John G & T Blount

Gentlemen:

We have been duly fav^d with yours of January 16 & Got your Inshurance Effectted the Second of Febuary

Inclosed you have the Names of the underwriters on your policey with the amount of the premium to your Debit with us, On the 21 In^t [Inst.] we paid John Jones the amount of what we Sold your Certificates for Say 519 & 86/100 Dollars & have taken two Receipts of the Same Date one of which you have Inclosed He Informed us your Note was in Carolina, Incl^d. we send you a price Currant, the publick funds has fluctuated Greately this winter Lateley the[y] have Been up to 25¼ for 6 Per Cents the have fell & are now about 20 1/3[.] W^m Duer & one Whippo of New york Two of the Greatest Speculators in America have failed[,] Said to be upwards of 11 Millions of Dolrs. Many persons in New york & Some here will be Ruined by Indorsing their Notes, this affair and the greate Discounts made by the New Bank on their Beginning to do Business & their present [2] Stoppage of Discounting Notes as formerly, has thrown this Citey into greate Distress for want of mony. the like I never Saw. Maney good houses cant take up their Notes when the[y] Become due, how this Matter will End no person Can tell

Many persons are Sorry for the Resuretion of the Certificates —We have had an Exceeding hard Winter our River has Been froze upwards of two Months & allmost every Vessel which has arrived here this Spring, has had Long Passages and what is worse Bad prospects of Markets in Spain & Pourtugal for our Grain—Yesterday we Rec^d a Letter from your Brother W^m. Dated the Sixth Instant when he was well[.] we are with

Respect your most Humble Serv^{ts}

STUART & BARR

Mr. John G. Blount

I was in hopes of Receiving a Line from you[,] I am with
Greate Esteem your most Humble Sert

JA. BARR

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G & Thomas Blount
Merchants Washington
North Carolina

Per Capt Kins)
Via New Bern)

James Webster to John Gray Blount

March 31th 1792

Sir. I am now over the bar with a prospres Gail and in hopes
of Continuence. I Rote a fue Lians by Cap^t. M^c.Danuel in which
I have Minced [mentioned] that that James Smith is on bord,
and henry miller discharged on the Count of beeing Very Sick,
[he] was taken on the twenty third of this instent [and] has not
don me any manner of Service Sence—Cap^t Maxfeld infourms
[me] that Markets is Good in point opeter [Pointe-à-Pitre]
Shingles in particler, for any thing. Els. he has no Sertin a
Counts [accounts]—

The brig as yet proves Very tite and [I am] in hopes that
she will Continue so—I was Verey Luckey in Getting over the
Swash . I lited [lightered] Run over the Swash and Rec^d the
Liter lode on the same day . at the time of Cumming over there
was Cap Camerun and four or five Vessels mo^r. a Ground on
the Swash⁴⁶

From Your^s.

JAME^s. WEBSTER

March 31th 1792

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr.
Merchant

Hon by
Cap
Maxfield

⁴⁶Vessels leaving North Carolina through Ocracoke Inlet had first to pass over the swashes, treacherous sand mounds lying too near the surface of the water for heavily loaded ships to get over them successfully. Webster had to use a lighter (a small vessel which took over a part of his load) to get over the swash. He was fortunate in having a good wind to help him over the bar or inlet. Many vessels floundered there because of sand banks under the water.

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

[SHELL CASTLE, April 7, 1792]

Dear Sir/

I wrote you by Capt M^c. Daniel about a Boy for a Clark [Clerk], I Sence Got a son of my Brother Billeys who I think will ansure our purpose Very well, concerning the Business of keeping an account [of] the Vessells Sailing in and out[,] it would Employ all hands that I have, to come any ways near the thing[,] Rum is the only thing that I have made any Progress in Selling yet the hoghed [hogshead] is almost out.

I want to come to town, But am So Buseye that I can not Get away. yet Yours in health

JOHN WALLACE

Sell Castle

Ap^l. 7th 1792

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Capt Deggs

William Blount to Hugh Williamson

Extract of Letter

KNOXVILLE, April 14, 1792

Thursday last was a week an unlucky day, an Indian man passing peaceably from Colonel Hubbards with four Squaws was fired on by two people he says Hubbards Sons, one ball grazed his cheek and the other passed through his side not mortal—I have not yet been able to fix it on any particular persons. In the morning of the same day Harper Ratcliffs wife and three children were killed in Stanly Valley which is on Clinch just below the Virginia line, five Indians were seen in the act by Ratcliff himself supposed to be the birch and his party and the same Evening a Number of Horses were taken from a station in Powells valley about twenty, and on the evening of the same day Thursday as the Headman of Hiwassa and other indians were encamped between Comberland mountain & Clinch they were fired upon, the Headman killed another wounded and

the camp robbed of every thing they had—This is the account of the wounded man who reached Coyattee on the Succeeding Sunday night—I immediately on hearing his account dispatched a Messenger over to Clinch to enquire who could have done it and can hear nothing as to who did, but I am pretty sure it is by no people of this Territory and their is strong reasons to suspect that it was done by a part of those two companies Stationed on Clync for the protection of the frontier of Russel County—I am also using my endeavours to find out the author of this damnable act.⁴⁷

On thursday also the same day, I had ordered a company to be drafted in Hawkins County (being general muster day) to March on the 25th instant, for the defence of the frontiers of Cumberland under Captain Cooper, which was done with great readiness, but all the unforeseen circumstances taking place, I shall order this company to range for the protection of the frontiers of Hawkins, and shall order another company to be raised to March to Cumberland, in some other county—I have order'd two to turn out in Miro district the whole four, for three months each—

Yesterday arrived here three Chickasaws on their way for Philadelphia with a letter to the President from Primingo—I shall endeavor to turn them back; but its uncertain whether I can or not—They speak peace from the Chickasaws and Chactaws and say they will turn out 500 men to assist the United States the next campaign—I shall immediately dispatch a man to them to get them out as early as possible, and should have done it before, but I have daily expected Brown, Perry and Captain George from South Carolina who are not yet arrived and besides you know there were reasons to fear that they were hostile in which case there could have been no hope of success—If these Chickasaws do turn back it will be in consequence of my assuring them that a Treaty is to be held with them at Nashville and the Chactaws too—in which I fully depend and if it is not, my reputation with them will be worse than General St. Clair's,⁴⁸ and that is bad enough, I depend much a Treaty is to

⁴⁷Blount's difficulties were undoubtedly increased by Spanish intrigue. At the same time he probably intended his account to Williamson to be published as good propaganda to aid in securing Federal troops to put down the Indian raids. If this could be accomplished, life would be much pleasanter and land values would rise.

⁴⁸General St. Claire was a Scottish-born American. He had seen extensive service in the Revolutionary War and had served as president of Congress and governor of the Northwest Territory. He was defeated with heavy losses in an expedition against the Miami Indians in 1791 and consequently resigned his commission in the army. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI (1935), 293-295.

be held—With these Chickasaws, came Randolph Robertson, and Anthony Foster who inform that the Scout Sent out by General Robertson over took a party of the Indians regained two horses wounded Some Indians and lost two of their own party.

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Ap^l. 16th 1792

Dear Sir/

your method of Sending to New York for goods I am fond of. I think it will answer Very Well But anything Shiped from Washington hear will not Quit [pay the?] Cost. Nothing you have Sent Sells So well as Rum. the molases is Very thin and high. the Cordage will never Sell at the price[.] it is so bad that I cannot Sell one pound. pork will Sell at the price and flour. Next month, Tobacco will Sell at 8^d. Candle [,] Nails[,] Sope and Lard will all Sell in the Summer. Rum is the Best thing to Sell here—I lent horton a barrel of Pork I Expect^d. it wold not please [you] but he was out and had not 1/ Shilling to Buy any. I must have lent it him or he must have hiered a boat and gone to washington. after the Brig was Ready for Sea[.] the Boy I have Sent away[.] he wold do more harm in one day then good in ten, do Send me a boy as Soon as you can. [One] that will obey and Reson [reason], Spirits turpentine will Sell for a Quarter of a Dollar a bottle and not more. two of the Dozen you Sent [2] came to hand half Emty. the Baggs I ordered to be Sent up and thought they were. but Shall be the first Chance. a list of the Vessels passing in and out to keep anthing like a Just account wold take me ane [and] Six other men to do it. for they pass through three passages. please to tell M^{rs}. Blount that the Bed ticks will come up with me, which I hope will be in 2 weeks

I Remain D^r. S^t. your Ob^t.

JOHN WALLACE

MacDaniel went out yesterday with a fine wind which continues, Webster left a hawser⁴⁹ with me[.] write me what I am to do with it. Yours J. W.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 29 April 1792

Dear Sir

D. [David] Allison⁵⁰ esquire has again returned towards the Territory, South of the Ohio with Goods &c. for the Chickesaws and Choctaws, with whom a conference is to be held at Nashville on the 1st of June next—He has left me his Certificate Agent, and when he was in this place in January last he entered into a contract with M^r. Sam^l. Jackson to deliver him on or before the first of June next upwards of eleven hundred pounds principal in Certificates issued by the Comptroller for the Chickemogga [Chickamauga] expedition, which were to Average Interest from the 1st of June 1790—for which he received prompt payment at 15/ on the £, 2100 & some odd Dollars, when [2] when he returned to the Territory, Gov^r. Blount had sent off all his baggage & Certificates to Knoxville—his sudden return to this City on the Indian business prevented his getting the Certificates back or he would have brought them with him, however he sent out and purchased to amount of £660 which he has deposited in my hands, those at Knoxville were to be forwarded by the Governor, they are not to hand, and I fear will not be until the contract falls due; this contract is a written one, and I am Guarantee to it, *it must be complied with, & if*

⁴⁹William MacDaniel and James Webster were sea captains who carried cargoes for the Blounts. It was not unusual for MacDaniel to command one of the Blounts' vessels. A 'hawser' is a large rope used to moor or to tow a vessel.

⁵⁰David Allison had been a resident of North Carolina, where he obtained a license to practice law, prior to his removal to the Tennessee area. He became associated with William Blount and sometimes acted as his secretary. From 1796 to 1798 Allison became deeply involved in land speculations and was on his way to becoming a millionaire when the financial failures of his purchasers, Robert Morris and James Wilson, led to his own bankruptcy and imprisonment in 1798. Faced with defeat and serious illness, he died at Philadelphia (Richard Blackledge to John G. L. Schenck, October 1, 1798, John Gray Blount Papers). Allison is said to have received a grant of land covering the larger part of what is now Haywood County and parts of Jackson, Swain, and Henderson in western North Carolina. J. R. Morgan to Alice B. Keith, Asheville, November 10, 1952; Legislative Papers, 116, November 19, 1792, Raleigh; *State Records of North Carolina*, XIX, 390; Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XIV, 300, 303; and numerous letters from Allison in the John Gray Blount Papers.

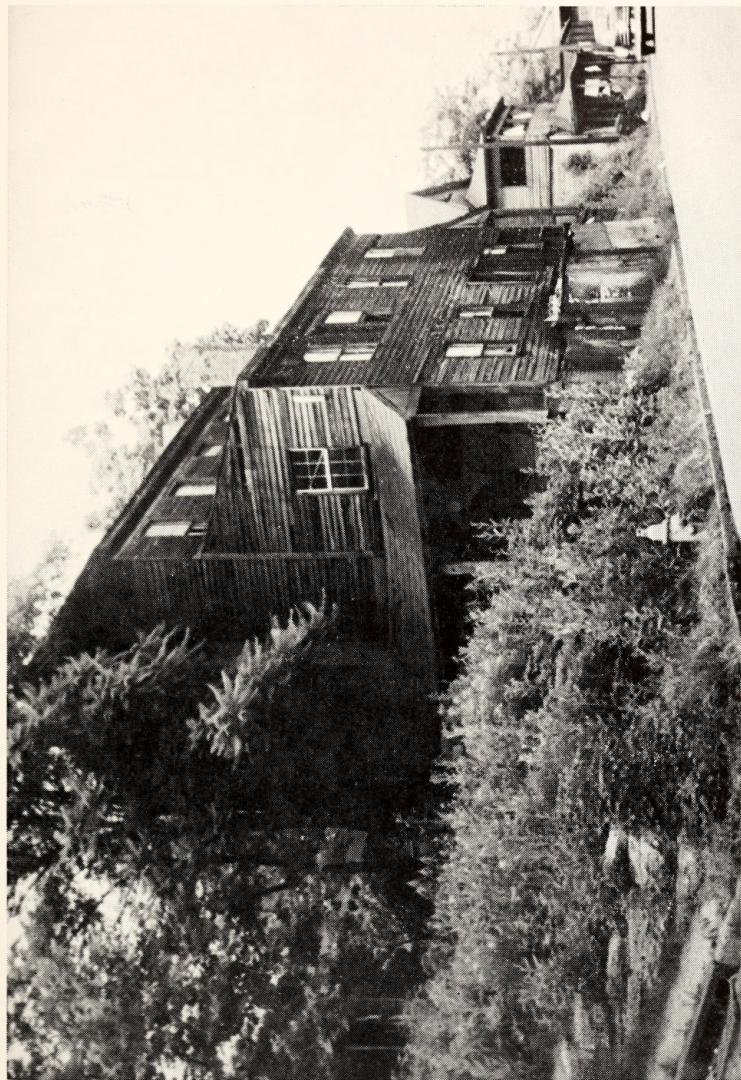
the Certificates from Knoxville should not be on the way prior to Mr. Allison's arrival there, they cannot be here in time, the consequence is obvious, Mr. Jackson will fly the way, for he is sick of his bargain, demand a restitution of his Money with [3] damages, and Mr. Allison will lose the sale of his Certificates, for confident I am that at this time one third of the Money could not be had for them—I am therefore to request that you will lose no time in forwarding those in your possession in order that I may have them as a stake in case the others should not arrive in time, if I am obliged to post up those you send the others will replace them for there is no doubt but they will arrive—In the meantime if you draw upon me for the 800 dollars on Acco^t. of the Certificates you send as you were advised by Mr Allison, I would by all means recommend that you do it in such manner that your name nor mine may not suffer by the non payment, for as the Contract relative to this sum is a verbal one Mr. Jackson will evade if possible indeed [4] indeed he has already said as much—his pretext is that the recent failures have so injured him that he cannot command the Cash, that he has been injured is certain, but not to such a Degree but what he could post up for this small sum did he not know that he had made a losing spec. [speculation] therefore in order that I may have every possible advantage to enforce the contract I think you had better draw on me, *but so as not to commit either of us*, and I will make the best possible use of it—the Amount of Allison's contract is £1128—sum on hand £664—wanting £464 averaging interest from the 1st June 1790, so that if yours are of subsequent dates you must add principal in proportion,—I send some papers⁵¹ to which I refer you for the news &c.—Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & am

D Sir, Y^r. very hum^l Ser^t

AC. THOMAS

[No address.]

⁵¹Newspapers from the North were eagerly welcomed by the North Carolinians, few of whom carried regular subscriptions to leading papers or magazines.



CHISHOLM TAVERN

Courtesy of Richard Myers, Jr.

It is generally assumed that Captain John Chisholm, who was William Blount's "neighbor," lived in this tavern. The building, as the photograph indicates, had three levels. Apparently the lower level contained an ordinary room, wine cellar and a bar. Steps led from this to the back hall and the kitchen. The second level also had large fireplaces at each end and had two large rooms and a hallway, which made it well-suited for entertainment. The rooms were plastered and much warming was used. The beautifully carved mantels, the door facings, and the closed cupboards or bookcases on either side of the fireplaces, gave an air of sophistication to the second level and marked this as no ordinary tavern. (Page 484 gives reference to this picture.)

*William Kennedy to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. April 30th 1792

Honoured Sir

I imbrace this oportunity in Writing to you as I did last fall Concerning what little property was left in your posession belonging to John Kennedey[.] I sent for diffrent things that did not come[.] the things That came was Viz One Hh^d. of Cotton in the seed, and 1 Box of flax from The Breck and his old Cheest[.] But I did Not Rescue any of Those Things for they were Ceased [seized] by One John M^c. Pheil for a debt unknown to me, I am informed [that] the sd. John Mc Pheil did send a letter to M^r. G. [J.] G. Blunt in my Name inquiring after my Sons few Things That was left in your possession Which I knew Nothing of untill The Things I have mentioned Came and Then he took posession of Them from on Board The Vessal They Came in and had Them in his Store before That I had aney information of Them[.] Then he Told me That my Son was indebted to him and he was Intended to have payment if possibl [if] Theire was as much left That he Could get holds of. I have as small lot of Ground and Small Cabin that I live in and he Threatons to Ceas [seize] on it as The property of my Son to pay the debts That Was Contracted When his Wife and Children Came Sick into Philad^a. from your Employment. and died of That same Seckness—Which was the Cause of So much Debts against him and now by all apperance will Greatly Distress me at last, as I am but poor and Needy and old age approaching one [on] me and my old Woman—Verrey fast. and has Nothing to Suport but by hard daily labour. I am upwards of 60 years old last Spring[.] M^{ess} Stewart & Barr tells me [2] That Your Honour will send me some Reliff as Soon as This Comes to your Honours hand On account of a Balance That was Coming to my son John Kennedey the time he was in your imployment to The Amount of 60 Dollars. Which if you will be pleased to Give Order on My Good Tender hearted frinds—M^{ess}. Stewart & Barr to Give me That it will Enable me to pay a Great part of The Debts That is laid down against me on my Son^s Account—

I Shall Be under a Great Obligation to M^r Blunt if [he] will be so good as to send me a copy of The letter That M^r John M^cPheil sint in my Name The first Opurtunity and Direct all to

the Management of Mess. Stewart & Barr Who is acquainted With my Necessity and Great Missfortunes.

The [This] Comes to your honours hand from The aged father of John Kennedy Who Waits with great hopes for Some Reliff from Your Liberal hands to Relive My Need Necesaty and Im in and will be in duty Ever bound to pray Whilst life Doth last.

Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM KENNEDY

Mr G. G. Blun Esq^r
Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Mercht.
Washington
N^o Carolina

Brig William)
Capt Gorham)
2 D C ")

John Teasdale to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL 5th. May 1792

Mr. John Blount
Sir

Our mutual Friend Mr. James Mackay having been so obliging as introduce me to Your Correspondence, I beg leave to make You a tender of my best Services here in the Sale of Your Country Produce, which from extensive Connections & long experience I am able to make the most of always according to the Times, & shou'd You wish to vest the Amount of the Nett Proceeds in the Manufactures of this Country, I can wth. confidence assure You that I can Purchase Them from the Manufacturers on the best Terms, & You may firmly rely that any Consignments You may be pleas'd to favor me with, Your Interest shall be promoted to the utmost of my power in every respect—In expectation of being favor'd with Your Ans^r. I am on all occasions very Respectfully

Y^r very Hble Ser^t

JN^o. TEASDALE

[Current Prices]

Tar. 11/.12f P Barr^l)
)) unsett^d.

Turpentine 8/[to] . 9/3 PC)

Tobacco....2. ^d4 P C lb

Barrl Staves 6 [to] 6.6 Pm, other sorts in propⁿ.

Deer Skins 14....17^d PC^t

Bees Wax 8..£9 PC^t

*Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount with Enclosure from
 Joseph Barnes*

PHILAD^a. 8th May 1792

D^r Sir

I now do myself the pleasure to transmit to you M^r Barnes's answer to your enquiries relative to a steem Mill, from which I collect that nothing effectual can be done in this Country until the return of M^r. Rumsey⁵² himself, for it is plain that they do not undertand the principles of his improvement on Savery's Machine, however that Rumsey himself does is pretty clearly decided for he has actually obtained a patent for it in England—In addition to your queries I stated to him the precise situation of your place, and that I considered the River Water as somewhat Brackish, this led to the postscript, they all agree that [2] that Salt Water will not generate steem—I shall keep an Eye to this matter and give the earliest information practicable

Congress close their session this day to meet again in November, Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & am

D^r Sir,

With great regard

Your very hum^l Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount, esq^{re}.

Merchant

Washington

N. C.

⁵²James Rumsey, an American inventor, who had a steamboat, *The Columbia Maid*, near completion at his death. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI (1935), 223; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 182-183.

[Enclosure]

[3]

PHILAD. May 7—1792

Sir

Yesterday A. M. I rece^d. your Letter. citing an extract of a Letter from your friend in N. Carolina, relative to a Steam mill.—

In answer to which, and your friends inquiries, I with pleasure observe, that the *efficacy* of M^r James Rumseys emprovement of Saverys Engine, for raising water, is abundantly equal to raise water from the Level, to any height not exceeding 28 feet, Sufficient to work one or more pair of mill-Stones, or other Machinery; consequently, the mill may be erected Either, on a wharf, or other place, as convenience may require.—

Tis, however, with regret I inform you, that, for want of a perfect, or an effectual System for Securing property in new discoveries, we have not as yet constructed this Machine upon a large Scale, therefore, cannot precisely Specify the net cost thereof. But, as this Engine may be constructed with but Little metal other than the Boiler and its connections, I am induced to believe, it may be erected for about 600 Dollars—

To which, M^r Rumseys improved mill upon the principle of re-action, the efficacy of which is proved to be equal to twice that of the under shot-wheel, with the Same expanse of water, May be added, I believe, for about 300 Dollars; So that the whole expense will not, in all probability, exceed 1000 Dollars.—

The expense of fuel, to raise water enough for one pair of Stones, I am of opinion will not exeed that con- [4] that consumed by an eighty gallon Still, and, in a much Less ration, for a greater number—

However, M^r Rumsey, in his Last Letter to me, dated London jan. 4—1792—informs, that he then had a mill going, in that country, connected with Steam, on an entirely new principle, which, tho' not perfectly complete, had demonstrated its efficacy, by producing three times the effect of the undershot-wheel.—

I Shall immediately write to M^r Rumsey, and request him to particularly Specify to me, the principle upon which his Said mill operates, and, what will be the net cost of a complete Set of apparatus, for a mill upon Said principls: of which, you Shall have the earliest advice.—

Which being communicated to your friend, if it meets his Ideas; on his request, I will require of M^r Rumsey to procure and Send over the apparatus complete, for Such a mill—which I will See erected, or an Engineer for me.

In closing this Letter I beg leave leave to assure you, that I am much pleased to find there are Gent^m. who are disposed to become adventurers in these new and useful improvements in the Arts: of course, I Shall Spare no pains to give Satisfaction to Such Enquiring Gentl^m.

With much respect

I am Sir

your most ob^t. hum. Ser^t.

JOSEPH BARNES

P. S. So much fresh water will be required as will generate the Steam—J. B.

H. B. Way to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK May 17. 1792

Mr. John Gray Blunt

Sir

When I was at Washington I had some Conversation with You respecting Pitch Pine Flooring Boards free of Knotts & Sapp and I have since that time been considering of it and I think it is probable that a Cargo of such as You were mentioning might suit our House. I would therefore be obliged to You to write me & first Post directed to me at M^{rs}. Archbolds [in sic] Boston mentioning the lowest Price that You would engage to deliver us. in Bridpart Harbour a Cargo of Pitch Pine Flooring Boards free of Knotts & Sap to be One Inch & a Quarter thick, six to eight Inches Broad and fourteen to twenty four feet long the necessary Quantity of small Stowage for properly loading the Vessel to be the best White Oak Pine Hogshead & Heading P. T. O. [Please turn over] [2] Staves $\frac{2}{4}$ Hogshead $\frac{1}{4}$ Heading & $\frac{1}{4}$ Pipe Staves Please to note the Price P Thousand feet superficial measure 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch thick for the Boards also the Price that Merchantable Boards of that thickness and breadth would be and the Price P Thousand containg 1200 Pieces for the different sorts

of Staves together with the mode of Payment and the probable time when it would suit You to deliver such a Cargo and You will oblige

Sir

Your Hble Serv^t

H. B. WAY

P. S When I was with You I left a Letter adressed to our House in Your Care to be forwarded by the Brigg Young⁵³ but as she is arrived here and Captain Maxwell knows nothing of the letter I take it for granted it was to late for that Vessel as the Letter was of some importance to me I will thank You to forward it to me at Boston if no opportunity has since offered of sending it forward if there has please to mention how it was sent. Your Paquet for M^r Thomas at Philadelphia I left at his Lodgeings the 5th Instant

Addressed: John Gray Blunt Esq
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

Post Paid

Grover Wright⁵⁴ to John Gray Blount

[GREENVILLE, June 4, 1792]

Sir

I have Sent down by Cap^t. Easton 88 Barrels Porke[,] 36 Ditto Pitch[,] 3 d^o. Hogslard[,] 2 d^o. Tallow & D^o. Wax, which makes 132.⁵⁵ With what you have Put in of my Tar & Pitch Over the 100 bbls at Washington will be the quantity I Shall Ship, you must leave as Much as 100 of that at Washington[,] I have

⁵³The brigantine *Young*, owned by the Blounts, had been purchased in 1782. It was a vessel of seventy tons, particularly well suited for coastal and West Indian trade. The average tonnage of vessels in West Indian trade was estimated at sixty-eight tons. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 25; Port Beaufort Customs Report (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), December 4, 1787; Edward Chase Kirkland, *A History of American Economic Life* (New York: E. S. Crofts & Co., 1932), 120-121.

⁵⁴Grover Wright was a merchant with whom the Blounts often carried on business. John Gray Blount was loading a vessel for him at this time. See other letters from Wright in this volume.

⁵⁵His calculation seems to have been in error here.

also Sent 26 bbls Turpentine & 30 of Tar for Next Load—Your Boat is not yet arived—I Shall be

Down Sunday Morning

In Hast your &^c

Thursday 4. P. M.

G WRIGHT

Addressed: Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

P Cap^t. Eaton

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 13th June 1792

D^r Sir

I have the pleasure now to send you the Boat by Capt. [Thomas] Nimmo, which I wish safe to hand, the Cost is thirty five Dollars 33 Cents as P bill enclosed, which I said in my Letter by Mondays post that you might place to my credit, notwithstanding which if it is perfectly convenient you may order it to be reimbursed to me, for I find plenty of use for all the money I can lay my hands on—I shall probably be with you in the fall,—if the business here will permit I purpose paying my respects to our Legislature in propria personae, when I will endeavour to balance our long standing Accounts—Pray when is the Assembly to meet?—I keep the articles for M^r [Abner] Neale in hopes of an opportunity soon to New Bern

The News of this day is that the King & French Nation have declared War against the Emperor—

Cap^t. Jo^s. Montfort is kill'd by the Indians—He and one man had straggled a small distance from Fort Jefferson,⁵⁶ & both lost their scalps, notwithstanding they were so near that [2] that those within the Fort heard their cries no relief was offered them, because they knew not the number of the Enemy—

Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & am

D^r Sir

Your very obt^t Ser^t

AC. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}.

Merchant

Washington

Capt Nimmo)

⁵⁶Fort Jefferson was built by General Arthur St. Claire on the Ohio River, south of what is now Greenville, Ohio. James T. Adams, *Dictionary of American History* (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 5 volumes, 1940), III, 389-390.

Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 6 July 1792—

John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

We Rec^d from you, by Schooner Fanny[,] Henry Ellison [, master,] 29 Barrells Rosin & have not been able as yet to Sell a Single Barrell, we have more on hand from New Bern, It has Been Sold as low as 13/ to 15/ per Barrell there is no Selling that article & Spirits of Turpentine, but as they are Consumed as none of them have been exportd lately

Inform in your Next if it would be Convenient for you to furnish 100M Good white Oake Barrell Staves to be Deliverd in Washington, the price & Time you Could Deliver them, you to be paid in any Kind of good you Should order, Iron, Liquors, & Grocereys, Excepted, Annexed you have a List of Certificates of your State which please order to be Subscribed in the Name of James Barr [2] And Return the New Certificates as soon as you can obtain them by Some Safe hand or the Post, and forward a State of your account with us., the Demand for Iron has Been so greate that it is Belived Congress will either take off the Duty, or Lower it to a meare Trifle at their Next meeting, Sundry Vessells from New England has Been detained 2 week to get 6 or 8 Ton of Bar Iron, Our Crops of wheate & Grass has Been Greate, on Sunday last we had a Huricane which lasted aboute 15 minutes which overset one Ship & Broke the morings of 6 others, overset Several Ferry & pleasure Boats full of people, onley one Lad Drownded in this place, in New york a Number of Levis [lives] were lost, we should be Pleased if you will be Kind Enough to Inform if it Reached your Place⁵⁷ we are with Greate Esteem your Humble Ser^{ts}

STUART & BARR

⁵⁷It does not appear that this hurricane struck North Carolina. Although John Wallace mentioned a hurricane in the West Indies, he hoped that the Castle would escape storms for that year. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, Shell Castle, September 22, 1792, page 210, below.

[3]

Certificates

Month when granted	Day	To whome Granted	Auditors Names	No. of Certifi- cates	1782	1783	1784			
February	25	James Thornton	Harris WmCathey	7077	"	"	1784	11	5	"
November	30	Alexr McNary	Ditto	5384	"	1783	"	11	6	"
September	5	Hugh McNary	David Wilson Will Cathey	4317	"	1783	"	72	"	"
June	27	Ditto . . Ditto	Ditto	3022	"	1783	"	9	9	"
September	25	Ditto . . Ditto	Ditto	1985	1782	"	"	36	17	4
November	10	WmMcNarey	Harris Will Cathey	5158	"	1783	"	9	1	6
June	27	WmMcNarey	David Wilson Will Cathey	3021	"	1783	"	9	9	"
June	24	WmMcNarey	Ditto	2971	"	1783	"	25	10	"
August	2	WmMcNarey	Charles Buell James Hunter	1218	1782	"	"	7	14	"
June	13	James Guy	David Wilson Will Cathey	0432	1782	"	"	8	16	"
								£201 7 10		

To be Subscribed in the Name of

JAMES BARR

Phil^a. 6 July 1792

[No address.]

George Ogg⁵⁸ to John Gray Blount

AUGUSTA July 17. 1792

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure yesterday to receive your favor dated the 21. June—my Opinion of the Purport of your Letter is as it formerly Wase & if Smith will oblige himself to Return the lands as free from Incumberance as they Were when Sold to him I would Recommend to you to let him off—

When I was last in Franklin⁵⁹ I was told Some Idle Speculators were over in the fork running those lands over again. & as your Br^o. Williams Wase not a resident of the State when those lands were Surveyed Perhaps his Claim will admit of

⁵⁸George Ogg is mentioned a number of times in these papers, but aside from this, little information concerning him has been found. He served as an agent of the Blounts on various occasions and in different capacities. Letters from him are addressed from many different localities, indicating a wide range of activities. See references to him in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

⁵⁹This was probably Franklin in Heard County, Georgia.

dispute.—The Washington County lands were Surveyd in my name and are Safe provided the Tax have been regularly paid,—

I shall sail for Baltimore about the 10th. of August and Shall then be able to give you more Information Respecting Georgia lands⁶⁰ as [2] As that will be the Principal Subject of my enquiry. I would however let him of [off] if he is Pressing. yet if you Can Keep him in Suspence untill you hear from me again it will be better. Arthur Fort who is really and honest man & who Surveyd the Washington Lands, Still Continues to Say that the Swift Creek⁶¹ land on which there is a valuable Mill Seat; is actually worth £500 Sterling. I know you don't want money and I am well ashurd this property is much better than Six P Cent Interest. on 1300 dollars but of all this I know you are the best Judge, I shall return in all the month of October when I Shall be happy to hear from you. in the Mean time I am

Verry affectionately

Dear Sir

Yr M^o. Ob Serv^t

GEO.—OGG

[No address.]

Edward Forbes to James Cole Mountflorenc^{e2}

DUBLIN 23^d July 1792

Paris—

Mr. J^s. C. Mountflorenc

Sir

I have the pleasure of your letter of the 7th. ins^t.—acquainting me that you had agreed with Mess^{rs}. Jn^o. Gray & Tho^s. Blunt of N^o. Carolina in case you could Procure Passengers at France, that they were to furnish you with either their Vessels, the Russell or Bell, which ever of them Should come to Ireland.⁶³

I have not had any letter's from Said Carolina Friends Since the 14th December last, When they mention'd their intention of Sending the Russel Cap^t. M^c. Daniel to my adress with Naval Stores, & that I might expect her early in this Month,—from

⁶⁰The Blounts were probably considering a speculation in Georgia lands.

⁶¹It is possible that he had reference to the present Swift Creek in Bibb County, Georgia.

⁶²See page 173*n*. 20, above.

⁶³Mountflorenc was in Europe on March 14, 1792. See his letter from Cadiz Bay to John Gray Blount, page 187, above.

which I conclude She may be hourly expected, when She arrives I Shall drop you a line by first Post.

However If one these Vessels do not appear before the 10th. August I can furnish you with the Ship Fortitude Cap^t. Oakes belonging to Boston, She is 200 Tons P Register, but the Master thinks She draw's too much Water for to go to Washington or any port in N^o. Carolina [2] He w^d. go to Charleston or any Port where he w^d. have Safe anchorage for 13½ feet a 14 feet water which his Vessel draw's when Loded. I am with Offer's of my best Services in this place Sir

Your mo: hu^l. Serv^t.

EDW^d. FORBES

John G. L. Schenck⁶⁴ to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 15th. August 1792

Dear Sir

I am informed by M^r. Blackledge that the 50 bbs of pork which I sent down remain undisposed of with you. & that he expected Captain Lisle will take it, but as it is uncertain when Captⁿ. Lisle may arrive & as I have informed Mess^{rs}. Stuart & Barr that the pork or a Bill should be remitted them before the 10th. of September, I have therefore to request the favor of you to have it Shipp'd to Baltimore or Philadelphia so that it may get there by the time mentioned[.] I could be glad that it would be convinet for you to take the pork on Lisle account as M^r. Blackledge observed that he had 260 Dollars of Lisle in his hands which he would pay you & belived that some money would be paid you by George Horn, you pardon me for taken the liberty of observing this, as your Bill on Phil^a. for 450 D^s. will answer to comply with my engagement better then the Shipping of the pork.—I beg the favor of a reply & remain with respect

Dear Sir

Your Obt Servant

JN^o G. L. SCHENCK

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esquire
Washington

W^m Kay

⁶⁴John G. L. Schenck was a native of Russia, who settled in Tarborough, North Carolina, where he was a "respected merchant." He had numerous business contacts with the Blounts and in 1795 went to Philadelphia, apparently with the idea of becoming their commercial agent. He was not very happy with this situation and soon returned to Tarborough, where he died of tuberculosis in 1806. *Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette*, October 27, 1806.

Richard Dobbs Spaight⁶⁵ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 20th. August 1792

Dear Sir,

You will oblige me much by sending me by the return of the post, an account of the quantity of nails your best hands make p^r. day; and what boys of ten & twelve years old make after they have been a certain time at the business. You will please distinguish the different quantities of each kind of nails, to wit, 6, 8, 10 & 20 penny's⁶⁶—

I am happy in hearing that you have got the better of the disagreeable burns you received at the time of the fire at Washington. I hope by this time you are perfectly recovered⁶⁷

The Bear has become so troublesome at my lake field that unless I can drive them off or destroy them I expect the injure my crop considerably—As Major [Reading] Blount has become famous for killing that species of animal. I don't know but I must get him to come over & Shew me the way to destroy them.⁶⁸

I am with Esteem

Your Sincere friend

RICH^d. D. SPAIGHT

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esquire
Washington

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

[SHELL CASTLE Sep^t 22nd 92]

Dear Sir

Your letter you wrote the day after your arrival at Washington came to hand two days ago, the Canvas I Sent for by Gortan he did not get, therefore I have none for the lighter, Billey Smith give Capt Webster a memorandum to you for Stuf

⁶⁵For a sketch of Spaight see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 528n. 7.

⁶⁶The Blounts had set up a nail manufacturing business much earlier (probably in 1787). See references in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I. Spaight seems to have been considering the establishment of nail manufacturing on his own premises.

⁶⁷No account of this fire has been found. Murdock MacLean's letter to John Gray Blount (October 25, 1792, page 214, below) mentions it again.

⁶⁸North Carolina was not thickly settled far beyond the coastal area, but it is a bit surprising to find bears so numerous in the New Bern vicinity.

for a little house that we ware talking of, I Shall be glad if you could Send it, to me Soon, I Sent by Cap^t Rhæ for Bricks but have not heard if he has Brot them. I will thank you to Enquire. and if he has to Send me about 25 hundred. if he has not Brout them to Send me that Quantity if to be had at washington, also some Corn if to be had for we are almost[.] out Capt Smith Sail^d. the time you Exspe^d. and had A Glorious Run—I Suppose you have all the accounts of hurricans in West Indies by this.

the Bricks I want for the Old wench a Chimney to our New house a Shore [certainly *sic*] before it Gets two cold. for She must be there to wash and mustle, I Send up a bag of oakum to John Young for the Beaver, which will want Drying and the bag will [2] will do to Bring Corn in, I hope Mr. Young will have the Beaver Ready to Launch by the last October when I will be up to sett her—⁶⁹

you Said you would Send me a form of the Claim to go to Corte about the Pirats. but Suppose you have forgot. I will thank you to do it, do ask the Collector about the Staks, for Every Body is Complaining, and I tell them that I exspect to have order to Stick them Every days—

the 22nd. of September and fine weather in hopes of No Storm this Year, Bringing off turf from the Point and all well hear and Remain yours

JOHN WALLACE

Shell Castle

Sep^t 22nd. 92

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esquire

Merchant

Washington

Capt. Barker

⁶⁹Young was probably building the *Beaver*—a vessel used later by the Blounts and John Wallace for lightering at Shell Castle. The oakum was a loose fiber used to calk ships.

*William Blount to Alexander Martin**KNOXVILLE October 2nd 1792

Sir,

The Hanging Maw when he was here the other day complained to me that the People about Swannano treated the Indians who had been in there "very cross" no doubt from a belief that the whole Nation was at War hence I thought it necessary to address them and recommend a different kind of conduct as you will see by my address of which you have a copy inclosed⁷⁰—A war with the Creeks and the lower Cherokees appears certain and I fear with the other part of the Cherokee Nation also and if it must be so I consider it good Policy that it should be clear and beyond all doubt that they are the violaters of the Treaty and not the Citizens of the United States—It is a matter of Public notoriety which cannot have escaped your notice that the Creeks and lower Cherokees have with impunity for many years past killed, carried into captivity and plundered the defenceless Inhabitants of the South western Frontiers notwithstanding the attempts of the United States by treaties and many valuable presents to induce them to desist and pursue a different conduct—but at length it appears that their crimes have arrived to such a degree of enormity that they cannot be longer borne and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when they will be chastised and restrained by the strong hand of Government—It is unnecessary for me to observe to you that it is not for me to say what particular Citizens should be called forth in this service but from the known bravery of the Frontier Citizens of North Carolina and their contiguity to the Creeks and the Cherokees I presume they will in part [move against the Indians] and I anticipate the pleasure of seeing them return victorious crowned with Laurels from the field of battle—I have the Honor to be with very great respect and esteem (2)

Your Excellency

Most Obedient and

very Humble Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

His Excellency

Governor Martin

* Governor's Papers, State Series, XIX Alexander Martin No. 2, 1791-1792.⁷⁰See message from Governor William Blount to the frontier inhabitants of North Carolina, page 640, below in this volume.

William Smith to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE October the 13 Day 1792

D^r. Sir

This will Inform you how matters stand at the Castle[.] it is Imposible for me too keep a true account of things that is Sold out of the Store for when he [John Wallace, sic] sends me Enny whire after his business he sells things and Never sets Enny thing over in the book if he was to tells me what he has Sold[.] I think it is Imposible for you to make Enny money with Such doings as that[.] In the corse of three weeks there was 13½ gallons of rum drank in the house at the castle and he makes me out all most as a thief and aroge [a rogue] too for he takes all the money out of the Store So that I cant make change one half my Time when people wants[.] and so for that Reason I wold be much oblige to you if you wold be so kind as to wright down to me weather I must Let things go on so or no.

I wold wish to keep change in the store if no mor[.] When Ever I have money of Number [a large amount] I taks it out of the store and gives it up to him to tak Care of it[.] I wold be glad if you wold send orders whirther I can take the Liberty to take some money when I want[.] In Regard to buying Cloths and other things that I can Get veary cheap of the Nothard men I wold thank you if you wold Send it [permission to do so, sic] by some cearful hand or Nother for if he was to hear of it perhaps he wold be veary angry with me tho he noes it to be the truth I Remain yours most humble Servant

W^m SMITH

four times week Drunk

Addressed: M^r. John Gray blount

Washington

pr favour

Captⁿ. thomson

*Murdock MacLean⁷¹ to John Gray Blount*NEWYORK 25th. Oct^r. 1792

Dear Sir

Having such a fair opportunity your way I thought my Duty nay less then my Duty to inform you that I & my family are well at present Thank God, as I hope these few Lines will find you and your worthy family and likewise to return you my most hearty thanks for your kindness & civility to me and my family while I was in your part of the world, which Kindness Shall never be forgotten by me[.] I was very Sorry to hear that you met a great loss and hurt by fire but now we are very happy to understand that you got the better of it, I am sory to inform you that we lost our youngest Child Since we came here but Gods will must be Done & we ought to Chearfully to Submitt to it[.] we have been longing to See Captⁿ. Mc'Donald here but We hear that he is not coming here any more [2] I have heard M^{rs}. Henry Hen is married[,] to whom I wish a great Deal of Joy & the next year a Pretty Boy,—you will be pleased to offer mine and my wifes Compliments & best wish to M^{rs}. Blunt & the rest of your worthy family[.] I hope M^{rs}. Blunt will Accept of a small Cagg of Barely which I Send by this opportunity—you'll please to offer our Kind Compliments to all Enquiring friends in Washington particullarly Captⁿ. Keys not foregetting yourself I am Dear Sir with my wife's Joint Love & Duty your most obedient most Humble Servant & well wisher

MURDOCK MACLEAN

Excuse this freedom I Shall be always Glad to hear of your welfare

[3] if you'll write to me you'll please to Direct N^o 27 little Dock Street near the old Slip

New york

With a small cagg of Barely

Addressed: John Blunt, Esq^r.

Washington

North Carrlina

⁷¹Little has been found about Murdock MacLean. He appears to have been in Washington, North Carolina, earlier and had been the recipient of some beneficence from John Gray Blount which was more than a social courtesy. See his letter to John Gray Blount, December 27, 1796, in the John Gray Blount Papers.

*Peter Schermerhorn⁷² to John Gray & Thomas Blount,
Merchants*

NEW YORK 29th Oct^r. 1792

Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho Blount

Gentlemen

Yours of the 5th Ins^t. By Cap^t Minor—I have Rece^d. with the 70 Bar.¹ Tar 50 D^o. Rozen and Eight Cask of Spirits Turpentine, and for Which I do Inclose to you the Sails of this—and What I have Rece^d. Before—Which I hope will Meet your Approbation, the Rozen & Spirits are Dull Sail Hear—Abgreeble to your Desire I have Sent you all the Articles you Desir^d. Except the Bottld Porte—Which at Present I could not Git to my Liking [but] Which I shall send [later] Should you have any Other Commands—Should I Receive any Order from M^r. Wallace I shall Attend to them—Fasten^d. you have a price Current of Articles from yourplace, as they Now Sell—and am With Respect. Your Most

Hum^l. Ser^t.

PETER SCHERMERHORN

Addressed: Mess^r. John G & Tho^s Blount

Merch^{ts}.

Washington

Travers & Co. to John Gray Blount

BRITFORT⁷³ 6th Nov^r. 1792

M^r. J. G. Blount,

Sir

Your fav^r. to our M^r. Way of the 12th June We have now before us[.] Our M^r. Way has verry lately Arrived from the North Coast of America And we have been Considering the Preposals you have * made us which we have concluded on as follows That if you will as early as Possible in the ensuing Spring send us the following Articles of a good Quality and in good Condition we will Accept of them to say 40.M feet of 1¼ Inch

⁷²Peter Schermerhorn was a merchant of New York. He seems to have been serving as an agent for the Blounts at this time. See reference to him in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 387n. 17.

⁷³This was probably Bridport in Dorsetshire, England.

* The manuscript is torn.

Clear Pitch Pine flooring boards from 16 to 20 feet in Length and from 6 to 12 Inches in Breadth—10. M of one Inch Clear Pitch Pine[;] D^o. 4.M—feet 2 Inch[;] dtt^o 2 M feet 3 Inch[;] dtt^o. 2 M—feet of 4 Inch—for which we will agree to Pay you by good bills at 3 Months And the Goods you shall please to Order [2] which we shall Charge you a Commⁿ. of 5 PCent upon at the Best rates they can be procured for in this Cuntry—And we would Also take in the Same Vessell about 100 Barrels of thin Tar at 11/. 20 Barrels of good Pitch at 15/.—6 Barrels of Rosin at 18/. 2 or 3 Tons of Tallow at 10^d P lb—6 or 10 of Bees Wax at 2/9 P lb And 5 j [jars, sic] of good Honey at the usual Price in small Jars or Kegs[,] Reckening the Dollar at 11/. for which goods we would pay you for in good bills at 3 Months and the freight that shall be Customary for the Season to Bristol or Dublin—We would for Breken Stowage & take 1 M white Oak dressed Staves at 12£ 6 or 8 M Hogshead dtt^o. at 6 Guineas & 2 M—[barrel] heading dtt^o. at 7 Guineas delivered here[.] You will please to Observe that there are no duties Chargeable here for either the Pitch Pine boards or Oak staves, and the Only Expences you would have to pay would only be delivery on the Quay[:] 30 or 40 Shillings for Labour[,] Quay dues 1/. P Ton[,] Part of a House bill 20 or 40 Shillings & Part of the Officers fees [3] 2 or 3 Guineas[,] Pilotage about 1½ Guinea for a Vessell drawing from 10 to 12 feet Water Burden from 150 to 200 tons the Vessell will only have to pass 3 Lights—The Goods that you will have Occassion to order from Hence we expect will go towards the Cargo we have hereby Ordered and the differance we will pay you for in good bills as before stated The Articles of Twine lines Nets Canvas & Coarse Woolen Goods are all made in and near this Place and therefore cannot be bought on better terms any where of the same Qualities[.] We would beg to Observe to you that Woolen Goods are this Season advanced Considerable from the Very great demand It will be necessary that you give us your Orders soon as Possible that we may have every thing ready on the Arival of the Vessell

We are Sir

Y^r. humble Ser^{ts}

TRAVERS & C^o.

Addressed: Mr. J. G. Blount
Washington
N Carolina

*George Ogg⁷⁴ to John Gray Blount*TARB^o. the 11th. Novem^r 1792

Dear Sir

Since I received your favor of the 21st. June I have been to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Anapolis & Several other places in the State of Maryland Where the land Speculation appears to be more lively then aney part of the Continent. Those Gentlemen with whome my principal business lay are on the plan of buying cheap lands which put it out of my power to do aney thing for the present. now Sir, as you wish to know what you are to do with Smith, my Opinion is Still as it was with Respect to the Value but our Country I consider in no More Safety then it wase 7 y^s. ago. M^cGilloray⁷⁵ has actually left the Creeks & the Consequence will be a Constant Rupture. So that the Franklin [Georgia, sic] lands Can not be Settled God Knows when[.] in this Case I think the 1300 Dollars more valuable then aney uncertainty of treble the amount—

You want to know what Situation lands will be in which were Survey'd for nonresidents.—Our Land act Says that the Person must Actually Reside in the State, but the Lawiers Say that aney lands which the Governor has actually Signed a Grant for whither within or without the line, or belonging to whome they may[,] Shall be held & that the State is bound to make the same Good, but I think this a poor chance for an Individual to recover property of a State, —If [2] You think that the Washington Lands under [these, sic] Circumstances are critically Situation [situated, sic] as I myself do more especially from their being Valuable, I will have them Surveyed over again in my own name & Convey them to you, or I will in the mean time Consult the Surveyor General of the State on the Subject & give you his answer,—I am detained here with a Sore backed Horse and from present Appearances your answer to this letter will find me here If Sent in 8 Days—in the Mean time I am with Sentiments of the highest esteem & Regard D^r Sir

Your M^o Ob^t Serv^t

GEO. OGG

⁷⁴See page 207n. 58, above, for comment on Ogg.⁷⁵Alexander McGillivray (1759-1793), the shrewd chief of the Creek Indians. He was fully aware of the advances of the white man over the western lands and sought to halt them. He often played fast and loose with the Spanish and the Americans, thus gaining advantages for himself and his tribe.

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. 25th Nov^r. 1792.

Dear Sir

I requested of you to send me the rates of Pilotage as charged by the Pilots and paid by Owners or Master of Vessels for the several services performed separately. I have some where miss-laid not only the Sketch of the Castle and Bar Shoals that I made but the Acco^t you gave me of the payments made for several Years of the Money paid for keeping up the Stakes.

My Patience has been thoroughly try'd lately by a Story to which that empty vain Thing McCabe certainly gave the Origin. He last Spring took some young slaves from Maryland to the Western Country—They were the Property of Dav^d Allison, but as M^cCabe measured his own Magnitude by the Size of his Employer, he told at every Town on the Road that the slaves were for Gov^r Blount. It happens that Allison sent some of those Negroes to the Cumberland Settlement and in that same Settlement Provisions were bought last summer for feeding the Indians at the Treaty. Allison was the Bearer of the Money for buying the Provisions and he was known to be the Governor's secretary [2] Secretary. I need not tell you that from such Premises a very good story might be made by a malicious Person and such Persons are not wanting on either side of the Mountain.

It appeared from M^cCabes repeated Evidence that the Governor had been dealing in Negroes, they were bo^t. with Cash & presently sold on tother Side of the Mountan. It was deliberately said to me six or eight days ago that Gov^r Blount had laid out Money put into his Hands for holding a Treaty in buying Negroes and that he had bartered those Negroes for Provisions for the Indians and made his Charges as for Cash furnished. This was rather more of a Tryal to my Patience than any thing I have met with for some Months. It happened that Allison was in Town. I informd how much it became him on every Occasion fully to explain that Transaction, reminding him that in his double Capacity of Merchant and Agent for the Governor he should be careful not to have things so twisted together as to involve any Doubt what Purchases or Sales were on public Acco^t and what on private. Last Summer Gen^l Knox had rec^d.

an anonymous Letter concerning [3] goods that Allison had bot in Town. He shewed me the Letter, I assured him that the affair of the goods was purely his own, I nevertheless thought it my duty to write Gov^r. Blount on the subject. I am taking Pains to have every Circumstance respecting the Purchase & Sale of the Slaves fully cleared up in Order that if I shall find that it reaches the Ears of executive officers I may be ready to explain it.⁷⁶

I am D^r Sir

With great Regard

I am obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq.

Addressed: John G Blount, Esq^r.
Washington

Joseph Ross to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 26th Nov^r. 1792

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Sir

I want 20 bbls of your cleanest Rosin to ship by the first opportunity to New York; & from thence to Londonderry which may perhaps open a New Market for that article—please to Inform me your price & the mode of payment & you'll Oblige

your Humble Servant

Jo^s. Ross

Tarb^{gh}, 26th Nov^r. 1792

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^r.
Washington

⁷⁶Williamson's loyalty to the Blounts was very strong.

*Dominick Terry & Co. to John Gray Blount*CADIZ 4th. December 1792John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Sir

Our last respects' to you were the *Since when we have not received any of your favour's, we however avail ourselves of a Vessel which we are expediting to your State to inform you what occur's here respecting American produce . . .

Indian Corn is in very great demand, and would now obtain ^{ron}^d. 34 a 36: P faneg, and there is reason to think that it will be call'd for in the Spring, on account of the scarcity which we are then likely to experience of Wheat; and which begins to be already felt.—this has Created a brisk demand for Flour for home Consumption, which begins to Subside a little, but this article will be again wanted in the spring & summer of [for] our Colony's—

A Very Considerable quantity of Staves has been imported for some months back from different Parts of your Continent, which has glutted for a little time, but there will be a demand for them towards July, when they are in greatest Consume; those which came from your State are in much Estimation here, & the pipe & Barril [barrel] are what we want.—Any quantity of [2] Bees Wax is allways sure to obtain from 50 a 52-Pgg^{al}.—We refer you to the price Current Inclosed, & Remain very Respectfully.—

Sir

Your Mst. Ob^t. Hbl. Serv^{ts}.

DOM. TERRY & COMP.

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

pr Olive Branch

Captⁿ. J Calders

* A blank space in the manuscript.

*Travers & Co. to John Gray Blount*BRIETPORT [BRIDPORT, sic] 7th Dec^r. 1792

Mr. J G Blount

Sir!

We wrote you the 6th Nov^r. which we hereby beg to confirm—And in Addition to our Order then we would beg you to add 1 or 200 more Barrells of your best thin Tar with 20 or 30 barrels of of best Pitch the Other Articles may stand the Same as Ordered before We would by the earliest Oppertunity of your giving us Advice as to your Proceedings in this business

We are Sir

Y^r. humble Ser^{ts}TRAVERS & C^o.

Addressed: Mr. J G Blount

Washington

North Carolina

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a 12th Dec^r 1792

Dear Sir

Your's of 22nd ult came to Hand yesterday. you had written me that you had drawn on me for 100 Dls in favour of Stewart & Barr desiring me to pay the Money though the Draft should not come to Hand, as the Money was due. I paid them 100 Dls accordingly. This was paid according to Order but not on the special Draft which I have not seen and assuredly should not pay if P Accident presented.

Gov^r. Blount is involved deep in Indian Wars. And Congress are puzzled in determining whether they shall make open declared War against the Chickamaugas or not. You may be assured that I do not think it prudent to be forward in pressing this War. In Spite of Preventatives the Business must make its own Way.

The Governor finds it necessary to buy Provisions to feed the Militia and he draws on me for the Cash. Two Bills have been presented me to day which added to former Payments and Acceptances make Dls 4500 and I have Orders for 1200 Dls as the means of Payment. Other funds will probably be [2] be adduced

else I shall be obliged to sell Stock which would grieve me exceedingly as it is now rather below par. I might probably get relief by Application to the Treasury for Cash on Acco^t. but not knowing whether the Demand may chance to come forward in some other Form which might afterwards bear an unfavorable Colouring I shall rather submit to the Inconvenience of selling Stock. I believe the Expence of the Militia in that Territory for the last 3 Months can hardly be less than 20 Thous^d. Dls. There have been I think 1500 Men out at a Time. You have heard I suppose the [that] M^{rs} Blount has lately 2 Months ago brought a little girl,⁷⁷ by much the finest she has ever had, it distances the others out of Sight. Such are the Benefits of good Air & wild Game.

I observe what you say about the Nags who are in training;⁷⁸ If the Assembly makes its Arrangements so as that we may have proper beasts so much the better It would be a Pity there should be much odds in their Speed. I hope there will be an excellent Group.

Before the Election I shall request of some friend [3] to signify by a Paragraph in some of the News Papers that I am not a Candidate.

I sent to Stewart & Barr the Pattern of a Coat of french Cloth. 2¼ Yds @ 42/ this Money is Dls 12.61 but as you don't like great Expence in Coats or Houses you may sell the Pattern without a Loss if you would rather be without it. If no Vessel to Edenton presents I shall send by some Conveyance a Coat for Jo Collins which you will be so good as forward by Post Rider if other Conveyance does not offer.

I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

John G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

⁷⁷Barbara Blount. It is said of her that she was the "first woman to be admitted to an institution of higher learning in the United States." This information is attributed to A. B. Hart, the historian of Harvard. Mary B. Templeton, *The Governor William Blount Mansion*. See also, Willie Blount to Jacob Blount, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 25, 1800 in the John Gray Blount Papers. Willie mentioned Barbara and said that "she goes to school in this town and is sometimes accompanied by Eliza, the principle benefit children of their age receive at school is to be kept out of mischief and free from contracting bad habits."

⁷⁸Men who were being prepared to enter the General Assembly.

Dominick and Terry to John Gray Blount

Copy

CADIZ 26th. December 1792.John Gray Blount Esq^{re}.

Washington Sir.

We had the Pleasure to address you our last y^e 24th. September Stating to you what occurred in this Market respecting the different Articles of American Produce. Since then we have received upwards of 70000 bushells of Indian Corn from different Parts of your Continent which we have readily sold at [meaning not clear] 26 [to] 28 p^s.⁷⁹ heaped faneg⁸⁰ on board and have disposed of one yesterday which is just arrived from Alexandria at 29 ready money which pays a very good freight & this Price at least we are sure of obtaining for a large cargo which we are hourly expecting from Rappahannock River. Some Parcells have been sent us from Lisbon, which clearly argues that this Article will not do there & we believe it has been found to vender better here for several Months past than any where else, but as the time of greatest demand is now pretty well over we apprehend it will fall in the course of y^e. Spring, not however under [meaning not clear] 24[.] it will begin to revive again towards July & from October to December it is in greatest consumption and produces the highest prices. We should think that when the People of Alexandria and Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York find their Account in sending Indian Corn to this Market you must make it answer, [you] who can lay it in so much cheaper than they and you can allways depend on its meeting a ready sale here towards [2] the fall of the Year, Wheat is likewise a very good Article here at times but Lisbon is certainly a better Market for it in general, it is now rather dull at [meaning not clear] 36, but is expected to advance between this and our next Harvest. Flour has been sold in considerable quantities in the course of this month \$10 to 11 p^r. barrel free on board at which it pays very well & is likely to continue in demand for some time and good prices to be given, provided we are not overstocked, in your state There is very little attention paid to this Article which is to be wondered at since you possess so many advantages for

⁷⁹Peseta, about one franc in value.⁸⁰Fanega, a Spanish measure. A heaped fanega equalled 6 to 6½ bushels in the United States.

manufacturing it. Pipe Staves are in constant request here and are now paying \$100 a 110 P Barrels in proportion. Hogshead Staves are very little used here. Bees wax is in constant demand & allways sure to fetch \$48 a 90 p^r. gg^l. of 104 C^t your weight. We find the White Beans of the Kind you mention to our Mr. Walsh would sell to advantage here and should you at any time resolve on sending a vessel here we would recommend to you to send a Parcel upon Trial & a little Pork well made up & cured would at times answer but as to Naval Stores we would advise you never to Meddle with them for this Place We have a cargo which will give us infinite pains to get rid of even at prices which will injure our friends. We hope these advices may be of use to you [3] and you may rest assured that any commands you please to confide to us shall be regarded the same as our own.

Our Partner M. Peter Walsh is arrived here within these few days much mended in his health; he presents you his most respectful compliments & we remain very Truly. We send this letter under cover of our mutual good friends Mess^{rs}. Stuart & Barr of Philadelphia, according to the directions you gave Mr. Walsh.

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

LETTERS FOR 1793

Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a 5th January 1793

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

We Received yours of the 22^d of November & Should have answerd you Sooner onley we have been Much hurried—they present is to acquaint you Our Ship Friendship Cap^t Samuel Hubble Sailed from Alexandria the 23^d of December for Falmouth & a Market, We have ordered Capt Hubble to Occracock and to Call on John Wallace for Orders—

We Request you to Provide for her from 110 to 120 M White Oake Barrell Staves, 400 Bbbs Tar & 100 Barrells good Stone pitch, Endeavour to procure Barrells which are made of Seasoned wood Giveing preferance to those which have no Pins in the

Heads, they [the] Ship May be at Occracock in all april [at least by April] and we Request you will be Ready for her—Please order they Staves to be got thick and wide enough, When you have purchased they Tar & Pitch, Let them be well Cooperd Nailed & Stored at our expence so that no Disappointment or Detention may happen, please procure they Storeage as low as possible—David Shomaker Owes [2] us some Money perhaps he can furnish a part we have wrote him your Draft on us will answer in payment, Get all you can of him and Draw on us—Please procure this Cargo on they Lowest Terms and be Carefull Respecting they Quality of they Staves as all Depends on their goodness the other Articles we are fully Sensible you Are a good Judge of

Acquaint us they price the Staves & Stores will cost us at Washington, & what you Suppose they Lighterage will be down to they Castle—

There can be no advantage to us, to have they Ship Brought over they Swash, and we expect She will have in a Quantity of Ballast, which may be Servisable to they Castlle, If it would be agreeable for you to furnish a Like Cargo on the Ships Return please acquaint us—

Col Thomas Deliverd us your of the 11 Dec^r & we have Ship-ped you Two Tons Nail Rods Per Gurlings Sloop[,] the Newport[,] Capt Thomas Bragg for New Bern, he has Engaged to deliver them to John Wallace to whome we have wrote to Receve them pay they freight & forward them with this letter to you as Soon as Possible [3] they Cost £42.10 Per Ton portorage 6/ Say £85.6 which Col Thomas has paid us with 125 Dollars for M^{rs} Blount on your Account, which we will pay her as she Shall order we have wrote her the Money is in our hands—Your Anchors if The are in good order & Not Dammaged by Rust will Bring from ⁶6½ to 7^d Per pound, They price of Cotten generally Depends on the Quality—

We have Quoted the price of that article from a price Currant Published here weekly, but cant say you can Depend on it, you may Rest ashured we shall use our Exertions for your Interest in all things you Commit to our Care we are with greate Esteem your

Most Humble Servants
STUART & BARR

Cotten 2/9
 anchors ^d6½ to 10^d
 Tar—12/6)
)
 Pitch—17/6) Retail
)
 Turpentine 14/)
 Exchange on London
 £166.13.4 for £100 Stg.
 Supperfine flower 41/ to 41/6
 Common39/
 Bar Midlings32/
 Ship Stuff8/ to 12/

You would oblige us if you could Send us a Coppy of your account as we wish to have our Books adjusted

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Mercht

Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 10th Jan^y 1793

Dear Sir

I wrote you some Time ago that M^r. Morris¹ had made a large Sale of Land; They are Part of the Lands he purchased from Massachusets, ceded to them by New York, being South of Lake Erie. The River Susquehannah rises in those Lands & some of the Waters of the Delaware. The Indian Title to a considerable Part of those Lands is not hitherto extinguished but they are within the Jurisdiction of the State of New York. A considerable Part of the Purchase is paid down and Part is retain'd until the Indian Title shall have been extinguished. We are informed that a considerable Spirit of buying Land prevails among the Dutch. They have Offices in Holland for such Purpose. I think it not improbable that a Sale of Land on the Mississippi might be sold in Case a Company could be formed who

¹Robert Morris. It has been said that "No single speculator bought land in the nineties so extravagantly as did Robert Morris, Philadelphia merchant and famous financier of the American Revolution. Edward C. Kirkland, *A History of American Economic Life*, 141. References to Morris's land speculation in the John Gray Blount Papers justify Kirkland's conclusion.

own a Tract of contiguous [2] Lands on any of the Streams leading into that River. I do not recollect what is the particular River on which your Surveys were chiefly laid but you probably know who are the Persons who in general own the Lands on that River.² Do you not think that Proprietors of 2 or 3 hundred Thousand Acres of Land on that River, of adjoining Lands, might be found who would agree to sell at a moderate Price? M^r Morris has sold Lands in Bulk good & bad at 1/3rd Dlr P Acre. Is it not probable that Patented and picked Lands might at least be sold on similar Terms? I confess that I wish to try. I would collect all the Laws of our State & Resolutions respecting those Lands and would finish and publish a Map & description of the Western Territory having all the actual Surveys in Hand. On such Data and Explanations I think some Thing might be done. [3] Be so good as tell me whether you think the Proprietors of the Lands in Question may be come at and whether they would be willing to sell.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

J G. Blount Esq^r.

[No address]

Richard Lake³ to John Gray Blount

KINGSTON JAMAICA 12th Jan^y 1793

Sir

I have the pleasure of your favour by Captain Ross, of the 7^t. Sept^r., & have availed myself of the opportunity of his return to forward you the annex'd acco^t. Cur^t. balanc'd by my Bill of Exchange at 6 months Sight for £277.8.7 Sterling or £388.8.8 Curr^y—which I hope will be Satisfactory to you. Bills of Exchange at this time command a premium of £2½ P C^t. at the usance of 90 days. I have therefore drawn at Six Mo^s. to make this remise equivalent.—

I have enter'd into a very extended Concern here in the Sale of Negro Cargoes under the firm of Lindo & Lake; it of course will fix my residence for a few years, I shall therefore be happy

²There are a number of references which seem to indicate that the Blounts had land grants on the Mississippi River, but no description or exact location of such claims has been found.

³Richard Lake was a younger brother of William Charles Lake with whom the Blounts carried on trade in Liverpool. Richard had long been engaged in business in the West Indies.

in the renewal of our Correspondence & shall be glad to promote your Interest when it may be in my power—I am with sincere regard

My Dear Sir

Your Mo. obed^t. Hble Serv^t.

R. LAKE

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

[No address]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 16th Jan^y. 1793

Dear Sir

I had an open Account with D^r Romaine⁴ which I expected to settle when last in New York. He was much busied by his Patients and a medical Dispute viz “Who was it who kill’d Alderman Wiley”? Instead therefore of rendering me a particular Acco^t. of the Proceeds of Tobacco I had sent him, he handed me several Acco^{ts}. rendered him by a mercantile House who had been his Agents or Brokers. Those Accounts however need some Explanation in Order that I may determine if possible what are the particular Hhds of Tobacco with which I am to charge D^r. Romaine for I suspect that you sent him some Tobacco for your separate Acco^t.

In the Acco^{ts}. of Elting & Varick I find a Charge of freight @ 4 Dls for 5 Hhds Tobacco from N Carolina by the Brig Adm^l. Krull.

In your Acco^t. with me I find a Charge of 2 Hhds shipped by the Brig, perhaps the other 3 Hhds were for your own Acco^t with Romaine.

Perhaps the shortest manner of explaining the whole Business may be by sending me a particular Account of the Shipments of my Tobacco.

[2] In your Acco^t. I am charged July 19th 1786 with Storage of 18 Hhds Tobacco. This was probably the Tobacco bo^t by Hall.

⁴Dr. Nicholas Romaine of Edenton and New York was associated with the Blounts in shipping, trade transactions, and land speculations. In fact his business interests seem to have engaged his attention to a greater extent than his profession of a practicing physician. From as early as 1787, he was contemplating the removal from America to England. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 246, 258, 290, 358, 387. Romaine's wife was probably an influence in his desire to return to England. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 20, 1793, page 299, below.

Sept^r 7th is a charge for storage of 5 Hhds Tobacco. In Jan^r—87 I am charged with the Price of 2 Hhds & in May 1 Hhd. You charge yourself however with 1 Hhd of Tobacco in Jan^r 1786. weight 1100 ^{lb}. N^t. Be so good as let me know in what Vessels you shipped the Tobacco above mentioned, how much in each Vessel and to whom consigned.

I am D^r Sir

Your Obed^t Serv

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq^r.
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 20th Jan^y 1793.

Dear Sir

The Division of the State into Districts I confess displeases me very much.⁵ If your Brother Thomas had started against Lee only or Ashe⁶ only I should have counted on his Election as certain but I consider the Malevolence and Vanity of Lee such that he will assuredly start and his only Effect can possibly be to come in the third Nag greatly distanced, but as every Vote he gets is a Vote taken from Thomas Blount I think he may help to throw the Majority into the Hands of [John B.] Ashe.

In the same manner as it might have happened if I had offerd for Edenton District and Col. Harisse had offerd at the same Time our Collision might have given the Majority to the French Man.⁷

[2] for Several Weeks we have no News from Knoxville.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Ser^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

⁵The legislature redistricted the State after the census of 1790. North Carolina's representatives were increased to ten. Williamson's county (Chowan) was put in the eighth district and Thomas and John Gray's (Edgecombe and Beaufort) in the ninth district. This arrangement separated Williamson from Beaufort where he had enjoyed the strong political influence of John Gray Blount and it is quite possible that it had bearing on his defeat in the election of 1792. D. L. Corbitt, "Congressional Districts of North Carolina, 1789-1934" in *The North Carolina Historical Review* (April, 1935), XII, 173-188.

⁶No further information about Dr. Lee has been found. John B. Ashe of Halifax was a well-known political figure in North Carolina. See comment on him in Letters for 1791-1792, page 165ⁿ. 8, above.

⁷Williamson's references are not clear here.

*Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a 23 January 1793John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

We Rec^d yours of the first Instant Covering Smiths Certificate, we shall obtain the Return premiums, we wrote you fully with the Rod Iron to the Bar under Cover to John Wallace which we hope you have Recved & to which we Refer, Col^o. Thomas paid us for the Nail Rods⁸—

We have had no obstruction as yet by Ice to our Navigation the Like we never Remember Vessells are Coming in & Going oute with the Same freedom as if it was the month of November we now expect our River will not Freeze this Season—

It is expected that our open Winter will Destroy the Insect Called the Hession fly⁹ so much Complained of by the farmers in their Wheate by Bringing them to Maturity Before their usual time, as it has Been Noticed the are Most Destructive after a hard Winter we are with

Esteem yours

STUART & BARR

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r

Mercht

Washington

North Carolina

CADIZ 24 January 1793

Sir

We have the pleasure to hand you Copy of our respects to you 26th. Ult^o., since when we received a small parcell of Flour from New York, which we readily sold at D^r10½, Cash free on board, & the demand Continues more brisk than ever. no Indian Corn has since appeard, & the first is likely to fetch or. 30:— nor do we immagine it will sustain any material abatement during the spring & summer. & as this article can be laid in where you are very reasonably, we do really think you wou^d find your account in sending us a Cargo, & we have many ar-

^aThe Blounts established a nailory in 1787 or 1788. They bought nail rod for this business. Much of their supply came from Isaac Hazlehurst & Co. of Philadelphia until this company was liquidated in the fall of 1793. See references in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

⁹The Hessian fly is said to have appeared in America during the Revolutionary War. The belief that the Hessian mercenaries brought it over in their baggage is accountable for its name.

ticles in which returns might be made you, such as Wines, both sherry & Malaga, Almonds, raisins, Figgs, Oranges, Lemons, salt, &^a, I wou'd add Brandy but we conceive it's present exhorbitant price wou'd not do for you. if none of these articles wou'd suit you for returns we cou'd send you the proceeds of your Cargo in Dollars by the return of the Vessel, or if you wou'd have the [4] same remitted to England it shall be punctually done immediately on arrival of the Vessel, & can be done with some advantage in the Ex^{se}.—some other articles might be added, such as Pipe & Barril staves, beans of the Kind you mention'd to our M^r. Walsh, which we believe wou'd sell well, & Rice, but naval stores will by no means do. we have a parcell which gives us infinite pains, to get rid of, & what we regret is that our Friends are likely to lose thereby. a few barrisl of Pork to be disposed of in our Bay. you may depend your Commands will be allways attended to with the utmost Zeal, & that we are very truly

Sir

Your most ob^t. Hble S^{ts}.

DOM. TERRY & COMP.

[No address.]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 26th Jan^y. 1793

Dear Sir

The inclosed Letter to Blackledge is left open because he may possibly be employed in the Business of the coming Election and you may happen to know some Thing concerning the Packet to which it refers.

Some Days ago a Packet arrived sent Express by Gov^r Blount to Richmond and thence by Post. He had fixed on a certain Day for Conference with Wats [John Watts]¹⁰ and other Cherokee Chiefs who as he believes are seriously desirous of Peace. He sent to the presidt [President] for instructions the President has by the Sec^y at War [Henry Knox] desired him to send the Indians hither and advises him to come with them for the Sake of having a full Conference and Enquiry into all Causes, if any subsist, of Grievances. I therefore expect that the Governor

¹⁰John Watts, clever chief of the Cherokees, played fast and loose with the Americans—sometimes seeking to betray them under the guise of giving friendly advice.

will be here [2] towards the last of March. I propose staying here till he comes for sundry Reasons. If any Difficulties should occur perhaps I may be able to assist in solving them. Col^o. [Abishai C.] Thomas three Days ago received from Gov^r Blount a Package containing a considerable Sum perhaps 15 or 25 hund. Pounds in Gen^l. Martins Expedition Certificates.¹¹ They come too late as I fear for the Market, Jackson is said to be the best Person to sell them, but it seems that if Jackson gets the Mony he will keep it as Part of a Debt due by [David] Allison for Goods and Col^o. Thomas is instructed to pay me the Money arising from the Certificates in Discharge of some Drafts I have taken up. T[o] oblivate this Difficulty I have advised Thomas to let Jackson sell the Certificates to the best Advantage and keep the Money as I have already paid all the Drafts I have seen except 1788 Dls in three Bills and for those I will contrive to raise the Money, rather than have his Paper sold under Value. [3] With this I send you a Letter written some Time ago which by some Accident I had overlooked. Dont omit sending an Answer without which I cannot settle my Acco^t. with D^r. Romayne.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv
HU WILLIAMSON

John G. Blount Esq^r
Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 27th Jan^y 1793

Dear Sir

Congress have rec^d many very absurd Instructions from the last Assembly, or rather the Members of Congress from our State. To have a Port of Entry at Pungo is not one of the most Important of them. Another is to ratify an Act laying a Duty on Vessels for deepening the Swash; this beautiful Act imposes

¹¹The expedition was probably that of General Joseph Martin, Cherokee agent for North Carolina. In 1788 Martin led an expedition against the Chicamaugas only to end in humiliating defeat. Donald Davidson, *The Tennessees* (New York: Rinehart & Company, 1946), I, 186. See also page 312n. 91, below.

the Duty in Newbern Washington and Edenton, but Vessels entering with Gregory at Plank Bridge are exempted. We are also to get an old Act to collect Mony for sick Seamen ratified without considering the late Act for amending it. I think you have heard enough of those Instructions.

My Wish is to be in the State when the next Assembly meets. I wish to see two or three public Laws pass not such as compose the last long List. Hamilton¹² talks of not offering for Edenton in which Case I would offer for that Town, but I think he will hold on and in that Case I would look for some County. If ever I should offer again for Congress I think that Newbern rather than Edenton District should be my Mark. In which Case to improve the Navigation of Neuse & open the Canal at Clumpfords Creek would be Objects. To take Residence in and offer for Hyde Co^y. would do in Theory but I recollect that those People are whimsical as the Major who had [2] long lived among them lost his Election last Summer.

All this talk you are to consider as contingent and speculative, for there are other things serious and important to which I am resolved to give the primary Attention. In this Class I put our Western Lands which must not be neglected.

I suppose you know that Gov^r Blounts Commission expires about 10th of June, being triennial, which forms one of the Reasons why I wish to be here when he is in Town.

Don't omit writing distinctly about the General things mentioned in my Letters by this and the two last Post.

I am Your obed^t Serv^t
 HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

John Smith to John Gray Blount

CAPE FRANCOISE Jan^y. 28th 93

Sir/

I arrived off the Cape after a Very agreeable passage of 15 Days, but after Incountering with Very Blowey wⁿ. [wind] for Eight & forty hours, off this place, thought It avisable for the

¹²John Hamilton of Edenton, a member of the house of commons, 1789-1792. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 56.

safty of the Brig To make for a harbour, where I anchord on the 22^d of this Insant. from Evry Information that Could be had from portawprince [Port au Prince] says scantling Sold for 160 Livres[,] Boards 132 D°. the 7th of this month. I am inform^d by The americans at this place in general that above 12 or 14 Sail of americans has Sail^d for p. awprince, therefore agree[able] To your orders have Sold the Cargo at the following prices. all the Scantling at 160. Boards 135. Shingles for 2½ Dlls to 2 D° [2] the tar will Command 2½ [per, sic] Hhs I Sold all the fowls which came Safe 6½ p lbs [sic] per Dozen[,] Turkies at 2½D° By the pair—this Leves me with about 30 M [in lumber, sic] out, I expect to Sail in ten Days from this at farthest as I Expect James Rhodes will Sail Before me, Shall Write you more particular what I do, with Respect of purchasing produce here—with you Have the price Current of Such thing as our Country produces—trade at this place is Very dull owing To the uncertainty of the finishing of the War with the Negroes,¹³ but the turn of the Scale appears latterly to be Very much In favour of the Whites, from the Quanty of Negroes that has came In Since my arrival, in that case Lumber will Certainly take a ride [rise, sic] [3] I Remain

Sir Your most Obed^t Ser^t

JOHN SMITH

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

N°. Carolina

Capt Briker

Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 30 Jan^y. 1793

The enclosed letter from Judge Pendleton¹⁴ I received, in answer to one, I wrote him on the 21 of november last, of which the following is an extract.

“Some time in the year 1785 I left with you a note of a Maj^r. Low due to John G. Blount. Low died about that time in embarrassed circumstances; But there were some expecta-

¹³The French had been disturbed by a slave revolt in St. Dominique, where Cape François was located.

¹⁴Probably Edmund Pendleton of Caroline County, Virginia. For a sketch of Pendleton see *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV (1934), pages 417-418.

tions of obtaining payment from some merchant; I think the sum about ninty pounds."

"I will thank you to inform me, whether any thing, and what, has been done to obtain payment. If you have not been able to obtain anything, the return of the note will enable me to Settle an affair in which I am interested."

"We have by the last post received from the governor among other things a resolution, to have a law passed in Congress to extend the time of surveying the Western military lands [2] and to make compensation to the purchasers, holders and locaters of lands ceded by this State to the United States; and by the said United States confirmed for a limited time to the Indians."—

This resolution is sent to us late in the session, and not accompanied with a single document expressive of the wishes of those interested, so far as respects compensation. I wrote to you last session on this point, and was in hopes we should receive their opinion thereon, The representatives may have received some information if they have, we shall avail ourselves of it.

Your brother the Governor has had I believe a heavy time of it, however, I hope our [affairs, sic]* in that quarter will be less difficult in future as we have reason to expect a friendly accommodation of our differences with Spain, some time this Spring. Mr. Short is er'e this in aid of Carmichael at Madrid¹⁵—

I have the honor to be with Sincere regard

Dear Sir

your obedient Serv^t

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington
North Carolina

John Smith to John Gray Blount

CAPE FRANCOISE Feb^{ry}. 3^d 1793

Sir/

This I Judge will be handed you By Capt Rhodes, whom I Refer you to for the particular Information, of the State of

* The manuscript is torn here.

¹⁵William Carmichael and William Short, Washington appointed Carmichael as United States representative to Spain and Short succeeded him. *Dictionary of American Biography*, III (1929), 207.

the markt, I Shall purchase about the am^t. of one hundred Joes in Suger and Coffee, Coffee at 18^{doll}. Suger Tolerable good for 9 and 9½ Dllrs.¹⁶ I have nothing Very particular to add but

Remain

Sir

Yours &

JOHN SMITH

Addressed: John G. Blount

Nº. Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBº. 4th Febº. 1793

Sir,

In consequence of your Letter by B. [Benjamin] Blackledge I have this Morning purchased of Jnº. Hudson all the Corn he has about—130 or perhaps 150 Barrels at 2¼ Dollars & 30 Barrels of Simon Harrel at 12/6 V. Cur^{sy}. [Virginia Currency] the former at 3 mº. the latter in a few Weeks—I know of no more to be had in large quantities hereabouts—Toole & Pipper have been disappointed in collecting & have none of consequence to Sell—You may send up the Packet as soon as you please I shall be able to make a load for her—Edmonds of Nºampton has Sent me word that he is exerting himself in my behalf & that [2] I need not be affraid of a Majority against me in that County—his father & Coakley sent me a Message to the same effect—L. Burgess is here & says that Gen^l. Jones whom he lately saw is also my friend & he also says that I shall get Scattering Votes in every part of Halifax County & in the lowest part I know I shall get many[.]¹⁷ I am well but have not yet Regained my Strength—

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: M^r. Jnº. G. Blount

Washington

R. Blackledge

¹⁶Johannes was a Portuguese coin used in the eighteenth and part of the nineteenth century, valued at approximately \$8.81 (36s.2½d.). (*The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 36n. 10.) A sou is a French coin which was used in the eighteenth century and at that time was worth about 1/20 of a livre or about one cent. The Spanish milled dollar was usually valued from six to eight shillings in the seventeenth century. The British Crown attempted to fix it at six shillings through a proclamation. This was the basis of the term "proclamation money." D. R. Dewey, *Financial History of the United States* (New York: Longmans Green & Company, 1912), 20-21.

¹⁷Thomas Blount was running for Congress where he represented his district most of the time from 1793 until his death (1812).

*James Buchanan to John Gray Blount*BALTIMORE 4th. February 1793

Mr. John G. Blount

Sir—

Captain Diggs having assur'd me that it was thro' your Recommendation of us (J^s. Buchanan & W^m. Robb.) that His Owner Mr. Benjamin Atkinson, consign'd His Small Cargoe Naval Stores, to our Address, permitt me Sir, most Sincerely to Return You my Gratefull thanks for the Same, as altho' the Business is of no great Magnitude, yet your good Intentions towards us, is the Same. & being largely in the Commission line, it will afford you pleasure to know that we have it in our power to Render Him, as good Sales, & disposition to promote His Interests, as much, as any Men in Baltimore—If I am not mistaken I had the pleasure to be in your Company once at Newburn, & also believe I Saw you on your way to, or from Congress. Since my Residence in Baltimore. Your Brother is I understand Governor of the Western Territory[.] Should Captain Digges, Return this way. I shall be very happy to Hear from You! & Should you in your Travells meet wth. Mr. W^m. Gray of Windsor¹⁸ or Mr. Stone—your Remmembring me to them—will much Oblige me—I now Remain Respectfully

D^r Sir—Your most ob^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

JAMES BUCHANAN

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

North: Carolina

per Captⁿ. Diggs*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. 9th Feb^y 1793.

Dear Sir

Before this comes to Hand your Trouble of Election business must be over. If it is true as represented here that Lee stood a Poll he must have done it in the very Dog in Manger

¹⁸William Gray of Windsor (Bertie County) was John Gray Blount's uncle, a brother of his mother, Barbara Gray Blount.

Spirit to keep out Blount, for he could not have had the Shadow of Chance of being chosen himself.

I wrote you that I wished to have Information concerning the Lands you got survey'd on or near the Messissippi. I want a Draft of the River with it's several Branches that I may lay it down on the Map which I am now resolved to have published.¹⁹ Also a small Pamphlet describing the Country. Be so good as enquire of the Surveyor, I think he lives at Newbern, What is the Average Width of the low Grounds on the East Side of the Messissippi which are overflowed with Water in the Spring. How far is it on an Average in a direct Line from the Messissippi Eastward [2] to the Barrens that runs between the Messissippi and the Tennessee.

How broad are those Barrens?

Do they come near to the Tennessee?

Are they in general rough & Hilley or what is their growth?

Dont omit to inform me whether a List can be obtained of all the Owners of Surveys made on the River where our Lands are. A large Land Dealer has lately been enquiring of me whether there is any large Tract in our Western Country for Sale.

I think I wrote you that I some what expect Gov^r Blount here in the Spring. He sent Martin Expedition Certificates²⁰ here to the Amo^t. of near £2000 as I am told which I fear will not sell though the Bill for more assumption, excluding them, is lost in the Senate. A few Days ago a Draft of the Gov^r for 400 Dlrs @ 60 days was presented me and on the same Day I rec^d a Letter of [3] Advice referring to the Bill which is to be paid out of the 500 Dlrs Salary due 1st. April. I confess the Circumstance induced me to fear that he does not keep a regular Acco^t of Bills else he would have known that after having received that 500 Dlrs I shall be in advance, this Bill included, 2712.25 Dlrs. You may be assured that I do not hesitate at accepting the Bills but considering the extraordinary Scarcity of Money in this Place and the consequent Benefits that may daily be made from a command of Cash you will conclude that some Difficulties attend large advances.

¹⁹Carey's map of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio, which was published September 18, 1793, contained material compiled by Hugh Williamson. See William Blount to John Gray Blount, Richmond, September 18, 1793, page 312, below.

²⁰William K. Boyd, probably the best authority on North Carolina finances at the end of the nineteenth century, was undoubtedly correct in his conclusion in regard to certificates when he called them "the most confusing element in the revolutionary finances of North Carolina." "Currency and Banking in North Carolina" in *Historical Papers*, published by the Trinity College Historical Society, Series XI (Durham: North Carolina, 1914), 59.

I am this Day told that Corn can hardly fail of being 4 Dlsr P Brl next Summer in Virginia, Think of that. Don't omit attending to the several Memorandums I have requested of you now and formerly. Congress rises the third of March but Letters to Members under 2 Oz. are free for 20 Days longer.

I am Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r.

[No address]

Jacob Blount²¹ to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 19th Feb^r 1793

Dear Sir,

Cap^t. Spencer has delivered six hundred and three & a half Bus^{ls}. of Salt three hundred to Roderam, for which he agreed to allow you 4/ P Bus^l which is one Shilling more than was given the day before in Cash for the Same Kind of Salt, the rest I sold for Fish 4 3/4 Bus^{ls}. for a Barrell fish which was the Best that Could be done, Six hundred Bus^{ls}. was sold the day before yours got here at 2/6 hard Mony & had three hundred More there for Sale, there is a great quantity of salt on these Waters, The Spirit of Elections has been pretty warm in this District We hant heard from any but three Counties in which Dawson²² has a Majority of 447. and it is generally Supposed he will have a Majority of about 6 or 7 hundred in the District, which is a great Mortification to [Stephen] Cabarrus²³ and his friends, which is the great Men of Chowan, Nancy is unwell the Rest all well & I am in Comp^{ts}. to Polly & family—I am Sir

yours &^c

JACOB BLOUNT

P S let me hear how Toms [Thomas Blount] Election will be

²¹Jacob Blount was the youngest son of Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount. He had married Nancy Collins, the daughter of Josiah Collins and worked with his father-in-law, a well-to-do business man of Edenton. See sketch of Jacob in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages xxvii-xxviii.

²²William Johnston Dawson of Bertie. He succeeded in replacing Hugh Williamson.

²³For mention of Cabarrus, see Letters for 1790, page 1n. 4, above.

[2]	Votes	C[abarrus]	D[awson]
Chowan	328	243	85
Perquimans	420	150	270
Bertie	532	47	485
Hertford	333	89	244
Pasquotanck	243	56	187
Camden	232	63	169
Tyrell	90	78	12

No return Accts from Gates or Currettuck it is Said there was but 30 Votes in Gates

Addressed: John Gray Blount
 Merch^t.
 Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 26th Feb^y 1793

Dear Sirs

Your's of 5th Inst came to Hand by this days Post. I will not attempt to sell the Land before I have published the Map of the Territory. A Gentleman just arrived from England seems to think I may sell any Quantity but he says the Buyers must see a Map that they may know where the Land lies. In this Case however I have many Reasons for thinking a Map necessary as the attendant Description will I think fully prove that those Lands must be twice as profitable to the Settler as any Land much farther North. I must also know who the Men are who are willing to sell must have a Copy of their Deeds so far as describes the location and fixes the Quantity and have their Power of Attorney & know what is the lowest Price they will take. Those large [2] adventurers with whom I expect to deal will not buy except large Tracts.

I wish to have a Draft of Obian River²⁴ and its several Branches from the Mouth that I may lay it down fully on the Map. Those Branches are certainly noted in the Delineation of Surveys.

²⁴The Obion River drains the northern central part of west Tennessee. It flows westward into the Mississippi. See map "The State of Tennessee" in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 278.

I have just seen a Man who passed through the Head of Gov^r Blounts Territory two Weeks ago. he says all is Peace there. I wrote you that the Governor is expected here in the Spring with some of the Indians. I shall stay until he arrives lest he should wish to see me as he is not so well acquainted with individuals in this Place.

I am Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N. C.

From: Hu Williamson

Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 27th Feb^r 1793

Dear Sir;

I am much obliged by your favor of the 18th instant—Will now thank you to engage with Captain Ross for a passage for Joe who shall be with you in the course of a few days—

At foot is a state of the poll of this district—The election has terminated not a little to the mortification of Cabarrus, if as much may be inferred from his not having made his appearance since the day previous to the Sheriffs meeting at this place to close the Poll—On the day the Sheriffs met, he was sent for, but did not come, the reason assigned for his absence was indisposition; whether of body, or mind, or both; is not yet certainly ascertained—I am fearfull this defeat [2] will produce his political demise; it is rumoured that he has resolved not to step forward in a public capacity in future—Should such an event take place, you will doubtless lament with me the loss which our Country must sustain, not only in this instance, but in Johnsons²⁵ having declared a determination of retiring from the Public Service—Hamilton²⁶ must from necessity retire, he cannot be elected either in this Town, or in the County of Pas-

²⁵Charles Johnson of Chowan had been active in State politics. He was in the North Carolina senate from 1789 to 1793 and was speaker of the senate in 1789. Connor, *Manual of North Carolina* (1913), 457, 557; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 94.

²⁶John Hamilton served as a representative of Edenton in the house of commons, 1789-1792.

quotank; elsewhere, he is not eligible—Hence you see what is at least the probable end of the three political pillars of the eastern district—

I sincerely congratulate with you in your brothers [Thomas Blount] success—M^cKey [3] has informed me of the vigilance of some of [John B.] Ash's friends, particularly [William R.] Davie, who posted himself at the Court House door during both the days of election—

I am D^r Sir, with much sincerity

Y^r obt sert

JOSIAH COLLINS

List of the Votes in the district of Edenton

	Votes	Cabarrus	Dawson
Chowan	328	243	85
Tyrell	90	78	12
Bertie	579	47	532
Hertford	333	89	244
Perquimons	425	155	270
Pasquotank	243	56	187
Camden	232	63	169
Currituck	193	132	61
Gates	56	33	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2479	896	1583
			896
			<hr/>
		Majority	687

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esq^r
Washington

James Webster to John Gray Blount

February [n.d.] 1793

Sir. at last I have Sailed in Cumpany with Cap^t Causse [Cossa, sic] Cap Maxfield, and Camren—x Linsey—Yeasterday had a Verrey heavey blow at SSW but No dammig dun.—the Brigg pruves tite as Yet, and are Verrey deepe, [because of] the Sixteen thousand of Shingles I have Receivd of Cap^t. walles [John Wal-

lace] he Said that if you, are Not a Greabel to My Receiving of them, that he will take them on his a Count [his own account, sic] & pay you frate[.] the Conditions Is that You are to pay the Common price at Newborn, the frate and worfage [wharfage]—plese in form [me] by Capt walles weather [whether], it [is] a Greabel to You, and weather I am to pay him at my Return and how Much p^r. thousand—
as he Saeis [says] it Must bee paid then

Yours

JAM^s. WEBSTER

February 1793

Addressed: JGBlount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

p^r. F^a ^{vr}. Capt Wallis

Dominick & Terry to John Gray Blount

CADIZ 1st. March 1793—

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington—

Sir

War having just been declared by France against England, Holland, Prussia Austria' & Russia, in which there scarcely Remains a doubt but an active part will be immediately taken by this Country against the former.²⁷ A great demand has arrisen here for your Vessels and very advantageous Freights have been obtain'd for various parts of Europe, and we expect they will be wanted for our Colonies, so that it may be worth your while to send your Vessels here to seek employment, consigning them to Respectable influential Houses—If you are pleased to consider us in this light, and to commit them to our management we shall certainly exert ourselves for you the same as if we were acting for ourselves—

This may be expected to be a constant good Market for all your Commodities while the present disturbances last, owing to the many peculiar advantages which it possesses, and they

²⁷The impact of the wars of the French Revolution upon American commerce was beginning to be felt. While the neutral vessels were assuming new importance, they were also experiencing greater insecurity upon the seas.

are all in much demand at present; We Refer you to the price Current inclosed for their Respective prices, expecting a progressive advance in them. We are very Respectfully—

Sir— Your ass^d hum^l Serv^{ts}

DOM. TERRY & COMP

We have just sold a Cargo of Rice from your Place at Rp^{te}. 42.²⁸ free on board cash down & the price may be still expected to advance.—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r

Washington

N. Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 3rd March 1793.

Dear Sir

Two Days ago Col: [James, sic] Winchester arrived here from the Cumberland Settlement. By him I rec^d. a Letter from Gov^r. Blount dated 2nd Feb^y in which the Governor informs me that he believes it will be necessary to take Wats [John Watts] and the lower Town Chiefs to Philad^a. He also says that Piomingo and other Chickasaws & some Chacktaw Chiefs, as soon as the Grass springs, say in May, will be with him on their Way to Philad^a. It is curious to observe that the Gov^{rs}. Letter to me is dated within two days of the Date of Gen^l. Knox's Letter to him, requesting of him to bring the Indians to this Place. The Time however fixed for his coming will necessarily detain me here a Month longer than I had expected. That I may not absolutely spend a Life of Idleness which I dislike, I have been thinking of making a [2] Survey of Roanoke & perhaps some other River in Order to determine the practicability & Expence of making them navigable in Boats. Perhaps our next Assembly not having much jobbing work to do may agreed to devote some Time to considering of Improvements. The Exertions of other States in making Roads & Canal & opening Rivers should make our People ashamed.

²⁸This abbreviation has not been satisfactorily interpreted.

John Rutledge of S Carol^a has written a long Letter to one of their Rep^s. in Congress about the Lands ceded to the Indians. I wish considerable People in three or four more states had Lands there, in such Case there might be some Hope that Congress would do some thing. As Matters are circumstanced Congress will constantly put us off to the State to do us Justice and the State will refer our Complaints to Congress.²⁹

Justice alone without interested auxiliaries fights a poor Battle.

[3] Don't neglect sending me the sundry Informations written for at different Time.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Washington

Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount

DUBLIN 9th March 1793

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Th^s. Blount

Gent.

I wrote you the 12th of October py^r. Brig^t. Bell,³⁰ & a few lines underdate of the 13th via Baltimore Since have rec^d. none of your fav^{rs}.—The War Commenced by France, against G^r Britain & Holland, has given arise [in price and demand] here to all your Product's, at foot are present prices, tho it's probable they will Still be higher,—as the rates of Insurance on British & Irish Ships will be enormu's,—therefore w^d. by all mean's reccommend your Shipping two or three Cargoe's of Naval Stores to this Market, with some Rice, Beeswax,—Deer Skins and good thick Barel Barel Staves—all White Oak.

I am Gent—Your mo. hum^l. Ser^t.

EDW^d. FORBES

Turpentine 9^s/6^d P C^s, [Cask, sic] 2 10^s/6^d.—

Tar—20^s/P barel, will fluctuate,

Pitch—25/ P D^o.

Flaxseed 60/ a [to] 62/6 P Hhd

²⁹See Letters for 1791-1792, page 183*n*. 38, above.

³⁰The brigantine, *Bell*, was one of the Blounts' vessels used in trade with the West Indies and Europe.

Deer Skins 19^d a 2/ P Sk[in]
 Yellow Beeswax . . 22^d. P lb. duty—3^d. p lb.
 Rosin—£13 a £15 P ton—
 Turpentine Oil 40¹ / P C^k. [cask]
 Barel Staves—£10.10/ to £11. P. Thousand
 Ground Oak Bark.³¹ £9 P Ton
 d°. Unground if Chopt in Small Pieces of 3 & 4 inches long
 £7. to £7.10/ If Good. —
 Honey* P Gallon
 Addressed: Mess^{rs} J. G. & Tho^s. Blount
 Merchts m
 Washington
 North Carolina
 Via Liverpool

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 15th March 1793

Dear Sir

Attentive to the Requests of our Pilots and Mariners I have obtained a Promise that Contracts for keeping up the Stakes³² shall regularly be made early in the Season or that Contracts for the new Year shall be made long enough before the old year expires. I have also introduced a Clause into a Law for having a Bouy [Buoy] at the South West Straddle on the royal Shoal. The first Bouy will be made here where Iron is cheaper and Men are in the Habit of making them. There shall be a Cage supported by the Bouy so as to be seen at a greater Distance. I have only to wish that my Successor may be able to serve his Constituents more effectually than I have done. The Bouy shall be shipped for the [Shell] Castle and I am told that it may be ready about 6 Weeks hence of which be pleased to inform the Governor [John Wallace].

I am Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

N C

³¹The oak bark was used in tanning leather.

*Space left blank in original manuscript.

³²He was talking about the channels at Ocracoke. Piloting was so hazardous that guideposts or stakes were much needed. See David Stick, *The Outer Banks of North Carolina, 1584-1958* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1958), pages 298-304.

*Edward Bryan to John Gray Blount*BLACK WALNUT POINT 16th. March 1793

Dear Sir

Your much esteemed favour P the bearer Edward Bryan [Jr. sic] I received this day and it gives me great pleasure to find that yourself and the Captain with whom he has Sailed are pleased with him, and I trust he will make it his study to act with that prudence, so as to merit the good opinion you entertain of him. I find the Sea agrees with him as he has grown very much since I saw him last and wears a much healthier complexion than when he left this place, he says he is very well satisfied in being under your direction and pleased with his Captain. [2]

With respect to his learning Navigation you will best judge of that, and likewise of promoting him when he is capable of it.³³ You will be pleased to present my compliments to Mr^s. Blount, Mr. & Mr^s. Harvey, and believe me to be with due respect and esteem

Your most ob^t. Servant

E. BRYAN

Addressed: John G Blount esquire

Washington

Favoured by Edw^d Bryan

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a 19th March 1793

Dear Sir

I wrote you for some Information that might be of Use in publishing the Map of the southern Territory. Yours dated Feb^y 5th which bears Post Office Marks at Washington March 5th does not convey the Information that I wished to have I am not certain that I so explained myself but I recollect my Wish to obtain some Sketch of Obian River and its several Branches which I presumed the Surveyor could lay down. I wished to be enabled to lay that River clearly on the Map that so any Purchaser might the better be enabled to form some Opinion

³³The Blounts had a number of young apprentices who were working to become navigators or merchants.

about it. I hope there is some Mistake in your Description of the Country about those Rivers I shall transcribe two Lines. "along the Waters or Branches there are woods mostly oak Timber the land apparently thin" To the best of my Recollection M^r Harris³⁴ gave me a very different Acco^t. of the Land he surveyed on the Obian. I wish very much to publish the Map but confess that my In — [2] Information respecting the Country between the Tennasee and Mississippi is very imperfect. If I had ever seen it as M^r Harris has done I could give a tolerable Sketch of it from Memory. I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

P. S. I am just informed that D^r Lee ran a pretty good Race though he did not according to his own Computation get quite 500 Votes ahead. 173 Votes might satisfy moderate Ambition. I hope he will not hereafter think it necessary to beg of People *not* to vote for him.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N C

Free. Hu Williamson

Zedekiah Stone to John Gray Blount

WINDSOR³⁵ 24th. March 1793

John G. Blount Esq^{re}.

Dear Sir,

M^{rs}. Clifton, the Wife of Peter Clifton, whom I suppose you know, has Requested me to write you a line Relative to a son of hers—He is an Active smart Boy of about 16 Years of Age whom she is anxious to have disposed of in some manner—She is informed that Your Castle and Shipping enables you to furnish employment for a Number of Young Men and would be glad to have him bound to You³⁶—The Boy has been at School long enough to learn to Write a pretty good hand and Cypher tolerably well—All that he Needs is to be kept close at business

³⁴This was probably E. Harris, a land surveyor in Tennessee. E. Harris to John Gray Blount, Rowan County, April 10, 1787, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 279-280.

³⁵Windsor is in Bertie County, North Carolina. See "Map of North Carolina" in *The John Gray Blount Papers* I, opposite page 64.

³⁶See page 247*n*. 33, just above.

and from suffering—Which if you can conveniently do so as to fit him to provide for himself hereafter You will confer a lasting Obligation on the Mother and her son and Oblige Your Humble Servant

ZEDEKIAH STONE

I will thank you for a line in answer to this—Z. S.

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esquire

Washington

p for C^{ll} Aimes

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH 25th. March 1793

Mr. John G Blount

D^r. Sir By Mr. Caleb Griffin I send unto you care one Hundred & Sixty Barrels of Pitch Sixty five Barrels Tar & thirty Six Barrels of Turpentine you will be pleased to Receive the Same into your care, and make my Negroe put it in good Shipping order to go on Board the Brig you will be pleased to let me know if I have enough down to make her load and what Time you Imagine she will be done loading. please to give Mr. Griffin a Certificate for what Naval Stores he has landed heretofore and what he does now land in order for me to Settle with him for the freight, and to avoid Mistakes Your favours will fully be Acknowledg^d

By D^r. Sir Sincerely—

YO M^o. Ob^t. H^m. Serv^t.

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: John G. Blount

Merchant

Washington

By Mr. Griffin

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. 30th March 1793

Dear Sir

Inclosed is a Sketch³⁷ of Part of the Mississippi on the proposed Scale of my Map viz 14 Miles to the Inch. I have generally understood that Wolf River enters at the Chicasaw Bluffs, and that the same River is occasionally called Margot. Be this as it may, the supposed Distances in your Letter of 5th must be very erroneous. The Mouth of Ohio is about Lat: 36° 50" And you call it 30 miles by the River from the Mouth of that River to Reelfoot. It must be as much in a straight Line if Reelfoot is in The Territory. Then you give 14 miles (suppose a straight Line) to Obion, 12 to forked Deer 14 to big Hatchie and 15 to Wolf River. The Amount from Reelfoot to Wolf River 55 miles, but the Distance, provided Reelfoot is near the North Boundary and Wolf River near the South Boundary must be 100 Miles nearly. In fact I am exceedingly embarrassed as to the Position of those Rivers. Correctness is not to be expected, but I wish not to publish a palpable Falsehood. I wish you [2] would try to get me a Sketch of those Rivers retaining their relative Distances. I have heard of a River called lose hatchie. Is that the same as Hatchie or big hatchie. Is there not a little Hatchie?

I wrote you formerly that I wished to have the several Ramifications of the Obion from the actual Surveys.

You say that 100,000 A^s. of Land, nearly in adjacent Tracts, may be offered for Sale on the Obion. I have not spoken on this Subject to any Person nor shall I until I am informed of the Terms. I know what I would be willing to take for my own Share of these Lands but other Proprietors may expect more or resolve to hold on. Be pleased to let me know what is the smallest Price P hundred Acres that I may engage the Lands for. You know it would not be decent after I had offered the Lands for Sale to be obliged to pause until I had found out the Price. Under the Uncertainty whether ever or at what Time those Lands [3] will ever be purchased from the Indians I consider that Prices offered must be small in Proportion. If the

³⁷His sketch accompanies his letter. It is in the John Gray Blount Papers. Also see map in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 278, from Carey's *Atlas*.

Title was clear I could sell them today.³⁸ I think it probable that I shall not be ready to leave this for the Southward before the first of June. I am

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Favoured by M^r. L. OBrian

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 4th Ap^l. 1793

D Sir

I have rec'd your favor of the 15th March—thank you for your kind intention of sending a few Hams by Werden, and as I keep Batchelor's Quarters I shall feel grateful when I cut them—

Your bill should be honored even if I had nothing of yours in hand, as matters now stand I believe I shall be something in arrears after paying that I [2] I will transmit by Werden the Acco^t.—The Commissioners for settling the Accounts of the Union have limited the Agents of the individual States to the 10th of April, for delivering in all vouchers & documents so that I have to work day & night to prevent a delinquency on the part of N^o. Carolina³⁹—please tender my best regards to M^{rs}. Blount

In haste I am

D^r Sir Y^r. very ob Ser^t

AC THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Washington

N^o Carolina

³⁸Williamson was becoming too exacting in his pressure for information about the western lands to please the Blounts. It is questionable whether the latter actually knew how much land with sound titles they could offer. Their warrants and surveys were in such a state of flux and confusion that probably no complete record actually existed. In this situation they were more interested in finding prospective buyers first and then fixing a definite price and quantity.

³⁹Abishai C. Thomas was a claim agent for the State of North Carolina.

*John Williamson⁴⁰ to John Gray Blount*CHARLESTON [6]th. April 1793

Mr. J. G. Blount

Sir/

I rec^d. yours of 26 February last P Schooner Polly Cap^t. Bonner: I sold the corn at 3/6. but upon their measuring of it out they discovered it verry much heated, upon which the man who it was sold to refused to take & I was obliged to make him a deduction of 2^d. P Bushell, there is a Large quantity of Corn here at present & all most every Store that is fit to hold it is taken up: & as the Corn was heated & a large quantity of rotten grains in it, I thought you run a risk of Loossing it, if I put it in a small Store., therefore I thought it better to dispose of it at the present price—on account of the quantity in Town, I cou'd not Sell it at that price without an Indulgence of Six Weeks—Enclos'd you have Invoice & Bill Lading⁴¹ for 1 Cask Indigo, also the Sales of your corn & Staves, I wou'd have sent you Indigo to the amount of the Sales, but cou'd not get a Cask of that sise that wou'd Suit that market; I am Told the Indigo I have sent you will bring a very handsome profit, at the French Market & one of the best Judges chose it for me, I paid the Cap-tain 15 dollars, as he told me he Stood in great need of money to pay his expences: As Soon As I have rec^d. the money for the corn I will Send you on the balance as directed—

I remain your

Assured friend

JOHN WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John Blount Esq^r

Washington

c/o Cap^t. Bonner

⁴⁰John Williamson was a brother of Hugh Williamson, James Barr to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1787 in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 312-313.

⁴¹These are attached to the letter in the John Gray Blount Papers.

*Beloix freres & Co. to John Gray Blount**HAVANA 14th. April 1793

Mr. J G Blount

Sir

Foreseeing Circumstances which may change the face of Commerce and augment the Correspondence with the United States of America,⁴² at present limited to the Trade of Negroes. and informed by one of our friends of the business which your house may probably transact. We take the liberty to inform you of our establishment in this City a long time Since. An Assiduous application to Mercantile affairs in regard to Spain and America, having given us such a knowledge of business as will enable us to acquit ourselves with honour. to those persons who may have the Goodness to Confide in us, and which will put any interest that may enter into our hands out of danger of the Snares which ignorance may cause them to fall into As we are well acquainted with many Secrets in trade which will materially facilitate our business according to Circumstances. and of which we should be happy to make you understand the advantages.—

We beg you will inform us of the different branches of Commerce which may be of most Utilety with you or at your place—As we may probably have a further Correspondence. In consequence of which we have the honour to offer you our Services in any thing you may think us capable of executing—in this City. The Trade of Negroes is at present very Lucrative here.⁴³ they Command from 260 to 280 Dollars [2] for groun [grown] Negroes and in proportion for Small ones and women—the breed (or rather Country) being good from which they came.—The produce of this place tho a little Dear, they may be obtained with due precaution at a Reasonable price.

In short Sir we beg you to admit favorably our Correspondence, and offer of Services.—The french Language being more generally known and being persuaded that we could communi-

*The letter is given in both languages.

⁴²He seems to be referring to the unsettled conditions of Europe, particularly the beginning of the Reign of Terror in France.

⁴³The Blounts did not make slave trading a business in itself. They bought and sold for their personal needs or when it was incidental to some other commercial transaction. The three brothers—William, John Gray, and Thomas—each owned a fairly large number of slaves. John Gray alone had seventy-four in 1790. *U. S. Census Bureau, Heads of Families, 1790, North Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 126. There is no evidence to indicate that any one of the brothers had any scruples as to the evil of slaveholding.

cate more easily to you our ideas in that Languge, we have preferred it to our Own (the Spanish) as perhaps it may be totally unknown to you, and the other more familiar.—

BOLOIX FRERES & C^o.

White Sugar.....22 rials the Arobe	Reaux L'arrobe [about 25 lbs. weight]
Brown D ^o18 D ^o .—	id.
Tafia.....60/P ^s . 8/8 the Hhd	johes id
Rum.....100 D ^o D ^o .	100 johes
Molasses.....	14 ream d le Barri
Hides of 25 lb.....14 rials each	14 veaux chaque
Coffee.....14 a 16 Dollars P C ^t .	de 14 a [to] 16 Pres gourdes le quintee
Honey.....20 rials the Demijohn	
—about 3½ G ^s .	20 reaux la damijauna
Lime Juice.....28 D ^o D ^o .	28 reaux id
a Rial is 1/8 of a Dollar	

Addressed: Monsuier John G. Blount Merchant
Washington N. Carolina

*Ira Hollowell⁴⁴ to John Gray Blount**

BLOUNTS CREEK Apr 17th. 1793

Sir/

I send up By Mr. Blackledge 52 bb of Herring I have taken 74 bb in all 10 bb I sent to Reding Blount to Wasington [Washington, sic] 12 bb I have Keep my self the rest of the salt and barols I Shal send up in your flat with the tar I let Mr. [Richard] Blackledge have 4 bb of the salt that you sent to Gamen[.] 1 bb Gamin Keep [kept] I also let Blackledge have 5½ Bushels of salt out of the Flat I shal send up all the tar that B Summon [Simmon, sic] and Joshua Johnson has ready if the Pilot will Bring them[.] the Herring. has not maid so good a run as usel
———yours

IRA HOLLOWELL

to

Mr J G BLOUNT

Addressed: To Mr J B Blount

⁴⁴Hollowell was almost illiterate. His writing and spelling are so poor that it is often difficult to determine his meaning. He seems to have been the manager and overseer of a small store and a plantation of the Blounts.

*This letter is almost illegible.

Stephen DeLancy to John Gray Blount⁴⁵

NASSAU April 21 1793

My dear Sir

This is the first Oppertunity I have had of writing to you since my arrival in the Bahama Islands And it is with Pain that I write on a Subject Where I am afraid your Interest has been injured[.] Let me tell a plain Story on our arrival at the Caicos We found in the Harbour a Vessel which had brought M^r Hall the Collector of Revenue from america[.] This was a Circumstance unforeseen and perfectly accidental—To satisfy your Captain a Message was sent to him from Col. Brown assuring him that He [Col. Brown] would take upon himself the task of preventing M^r Hall from coming to the Harbour Which he had in his Power to Perform as M^r Hall was at his House and would not move without his Horses or his Boat, This did not satisfy your Captain who was so sure thats he should be rob'd that there was no—reasoning with him, he himself held up his Hands against opposing a custom House off^r. because H was acting according to Law—Col. Brown and myself came down to the Harbor to accomodate the Business but still this Captain⁴⁶ placed no kind of Confidence in us, and we came into his proposal to go down to West Harbour and wait for the departure of M^r Hall a Pilot was furnish^d by Col. Brown—[2] Had this Man been regulated by us, this Cargo would have been discharged in three days as the Whole Island were prepared to receive it,—Just as M^r Hall had left the Place a Vessel arrived to give Notice that a revenue Schooner was on her Way to the Caicos from Nassau which rendered it necessary that your Brig should immediately leave the Harbor We advised that she should cruize off the Island for a certain Space of Time and then enter the Harbor and deliver her cargo but this was disapproved by the Captain and perhaps he was right and here ends all my Knowledge of the Business⁴⁷—I was deprived by all this of the opportunity of paying off the notes to your Brother and yourself—But now one I hope will soon offer This day a Proclamation was issued to open the Ports of the Bahama Islands for

⁴⁵This letter appears in duplicate and has a newspaper clipping of the proclamation attached to the duplicate. Little has been found about DeLancy.

⁴⁶The captain was Ezekiel Cossa. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, May 1, 1793, page 257, below. See also, comments about Cossa in Letters for 1790, page 152n. 217, above.

⁴⁷This incident tells a familiar story of American vessels smuggling cargoes to the West Indies where resident merchants were quite eager to aid and abet the illicit traders.

American Vessels loaded with Salted Provisions Corn Flour all sorts of Grain and live Stock—If you find it convenient to send a Vessel here I should be happy if you would send my Horses and a Payment of all that is due to you—shall be made with my most gratefull thanks for all you kindness—As to the Cotten Yarn if it can be sent to the Caicos it will be most convenient but if that cannot be I request that it may also be sent here—I beg my very best Compliments to all my friends but particularly to your Brother—My best Compliments to M^{rs} Blount—

Believe me to be with sincere regard—

Your Obedient Ser^t.

Stephen Delancy

[3] I had forgotten when I wrote the foregoing that Lumber is not included in the Proclamation respecting american Vessels—therefore the Barn & Stable if sent at all must come in a British Bottom—

Copy of Proclamation⁴⁸

Whereas it is judged expedient in the present circumstances of the Country to allow the admission of Provisions into the different Ports within this Government—I have thought fit by and with the Consent of His Majestys honorable Council to issue this my Proclamation allowing and permitting—and I do hereby allow and permit the Importation for Six Months computing from the Day of the date hereof into the Ports of Exuma, Nassau, and Turks Islands as well in Foreign as British Bottoms the following Species of Provisions Vizt Comand all sorts of Grain & Pulse Flour and Bread Rice and every Species of salted Provisions Cattle and live Stock of all kinds of Which the Officers of His Majestys Customs and all Whom it may concern to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly

Given &c &c.

SANMORE

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

⁴⁸The issuance of many such proclamations made legal trade with the West Indies far more extensive than is generally recognized. See Alice B. Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade with the British West Indies, 1783-1802," *The Journal of Modern History* (March, 1948), 1-18.

Pete Farrell to John Gray Blount

ST. CROIX 24 APRIL 1793

Sir

Since closing My former letter I am induced to try You once More & to Hope for a reparation, of Our first Connection, I think that if you load the Sloop imadiately on rec^t. of this & send her here to me, Observe She must be out of the Capes in 30 days from this date this can be done, Should You exert yourself in this, it will serve both, I will engage to pay you 25 dollars Pr. thousand, & if you encourage me in this I will[,] provided you think there will be a market, send you her nate [net] proceeds with addistions, if not $\frac{1}{2}$ produce & $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars I hope You will exert this from, Yours

PETE FERRALL

Briggs will inform you of Hasth &c

[2] This is due & will reconcile Us[,] address her as usual & she shall meet her usual expedition Comp^{ts} to your family

Yours S^t

P. F.

[on back]

Should this not meet your approbation, write me imadeately care of W^m. Pennock[,] Norfolk[,] he will forward it, or W^m. Stevenson [at St. Eustatius] Statia, Milner & C^o. [at, sic] St Thomas

Addressed: John : G : Blount Esq^rWashington N^o Carolina*John Wallace to John Gray Blount*

SHELL CASTLE, May 1, 1793

Dear Sir/

Capt Cossa Sail^d. from the Cape for this place the 13th. of Ap^l. So Capt Forbes informes me who kept with him a far as the Latt^d. of 29. he was Obliged to Run from the Bahames and Landed nothing there, his Cargo Sold for Very Little but he has taken in Coffee and Sugar Very Low and Very Good—Smith Sailed the 27th. and Left with me 85 Bar^{ls}. PIth and Tar[.]

the Tar [which] I have Sold a [at] 12/ hard [12 shillings, hard money], the Ship is not yet in Site, the Bearer has Lighered Stewarts and Barrs Brig over and is now Lightering hopkins.
your ob^t.

Ser^t.

JOHN WALLACE

Shell Castle

May 1st. 1793

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Merch^t.

Washington

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN May 4th. 1793.

Dr Sir.

I enclose you an Order which M^r McKinlay obtain'd from the Commissioners and he seems desirous that his ground should be laid off. alledging that the Wall and Wharf stands upon his land and wishes the Wall at any rate to be Removed, I suppose he will not insist after what I have inform'd on its being removed untill he sees you.—

M^{rs}. Tinker is desirous that you should take her Son Abner an Apprentice and he now goes over to know [whether or not you will take him]; I am of Opinion that he would be Clever provided [2] he was kept with a Man that would be particular with respect to keeping him at Business[.] he has a good Education and I sincerely wish he might be put to some Business that would be of service to him hereafter; if you have not more then you know what to do with hope you will take him if its only for a short time upon Trial, and wish he may please you.

I am Your ob^t. Serv^t.

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire

Washington

Fav^d by A Pasteur

William Bell to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA May 4th 1793

J G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your letter dated the 11th Jan^y last came to hand a few days ago—I am much disapointed in finding Samuel Gaults affairs under your care unclosed after so many years standing⁴⁹—I desired all the small accounts should be put into the hands of Some Majestrate and those in which a Majestrate could not act to be put into the hands of an attorney to be recovered from those who did not pay—there has been a Sufficient time to recover from all those able to pay and those not able to pay we must loose and the acct^s. closed—you say in the Course of the Winter you expect to close the Business—I hope you have done it and that I shall soon receive a Statement and close the business—I will thank you to write me on receipt of this letter for I am verry anxious to have the Business finished [2] and must fall on some method to get an end put to it your Ob^t. Serv^t.

WILLIAM BELL

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

John Kennedy, Junior, to John Gray Blount⁵⁰

May the 6th. 1793.

Dear Sir,

That all dissensions and animosities relative to elections, may be repress'ed, and not as hitherto prevail among us (and as M^r. [Richard] Blackledge offers for a Senator) the mature consideration whereof, influences me to communicate early in-

⁴⁹Merchants living in other states often called on customers and other business friends to handle delinquent cases for them. The Blounts were assigned numerous transactions of this type.

⁵⁰Blount and Kennedy were bitter political opponents. The election did not proceed very peacefully. John Gray Blount, "On the day of the election," decided that his candidates, Bryan Blount and Charles Crawford would not be elected, so he declared himself a candidate instead of Bryan Blount. As the election progressed "a general battle ensued and the House of Commons box was destroyed." Each side blamed the other, but the reporter of the incident concluded that "Rum and the Devil accomplished it." (*Norib Carolina Journal*, September 4, November 27, 1793.) In spite of the riot, John Gray Blount was elected. Certificate of election. Legislative Papers, house of commons, December 20, 1793. See copies of accounts, pages 647-649, below.

formation, of my being a candidate for a representative of the House of Commons.—The acquisition of your benevolent aid and confidence, will excite a sense of esteem and gratitude.

I am with respect,
Your obedient servant
J. KENNEDY JUNIOR.

Addressed: John G. Blount esq^r.
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 10th May 1793

Dear Sir

Yours of 8th ult came to Hand inclosing a Sketch of Obion on 2 Sheets of Paper which with the Letter making 3 Sheets @ 25 Cts make 75, bad Acconomy, but you promised to inclose a Bill of lading for 2 Hhds Tobacco Shipped by Harris &c which you omitted to inclose and if it had come it was not the Thing I wanted.

Be so good as look into your Journal July 19th 1786 and you will find an Acco^t of 18 Hhds Tobacco Shipped. Sept^r. 7 another Charge for 5 Hhds Storage and probably shipped. Jan^y 25. 1787 2 Hhds shipped. May 12th. There is another Hhd charged which does not exactly agree with another Hhd Credited. Be this as it may I requested or meant to request that you would let me know by what Vessels those several Hhds were shipped and to whom consigned, for the Consignees to the best of my belief have never accounted to me for them. Don't omit giving me this Information as soon as possible. The Object is too large to be neglected.

Gov^r Blounts Sec^y⁵¹ arrived here two days ago. The Governor himself is expected in 3 or 4 Weeks. He is attempting to bring the half blood Chickamaga Indian with him.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t
HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.
Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N: C:

⁵¹Probably David Allison.

*Dominick Terry and Company to John Gray Blount*CADIZ y^e. 10th. May 1793John Gray Blount Esq^{re}.

Washington

Sir

About this time last year we advised you of the failure of our Crop of wheat, & the price which it would bear here, & it would have been well for you that you had avail'd yourselves of the same, as you would have advantaged yourselves greatly thereby—Our Present Crop in the ground, which will be gather'd in early next month, like the last will be deficient in about the half, & at this moment a great scarcity prevails, and we are likely to be in a deplorable want all this year—We hasten to give you this information that you may come to our relief. being persuaded you will make very well thereby, & you may depend on our most zealous endeavours, to make the most of whatever you may please to Consign to us, being very respectfully—

Sir Your ass^d hble S^{ts}.

DOM. TERRY & COMP.

P: S: We have this moment sold a small Cargo of Flower, for the use of one of our Neighbouring Towns at P: 15: We think it will go still much higher, & Wheat would produce 10s/ a 11s/ St^s P Bushell.—Whatever Cargoes you send here [2] will be at liberty to go elsewhere if a sufficient price is not offer'd, which is not the case in Lisbon, and other parts.—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N. Carolina

Stuart & Barr to John Gray and Thomas Blount

PHILADELPHIA 10 May 1793

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

We Rec^d your favour of the 9 ulto Covering M^r [Amos, sic] Johnstones order yesterday, we will Send the goods by the Next opportunity, we had not time to do it by thiss present one—

Our ship Frindship was at Nants [Nantes, France], the 27 of Febuary, on the 17 of that month the Cap^t writes us, that he

was offered upwards of £900 Sterg [sterling] to Carry a freight to Pourtaprince, & on the 19 of the Same month, the people that the Ship was address^d to, writes us the would endeavour to preswade our Cap^t to take the Best Freight which offerd, which we think he has Done, & he has Broke his orders, other wise he would have Been arrived at Occracok, Before this Time—you will Therefore please Dispose of the Navel Stores, in the Best Manner for our account, If you cant sell them, Ship them for this place, on the Lowest Freight you can procure, & sell the Staves if you Can, Perhaps John Simpson will purchase the whole, & give you a Bill for them,

If you Cant effect this, order the Staves to be Collected into your yard, & Let them Ly for our account, & forward us the account of them.

Tar here is dull at present but must grow Better in a Short time, as the Brittish must Soon Begin to want it, there has been none [2] Shipped from this place this Spring[.] please favour us with your Answer as Soon as you can Inform your self what you can do for us in this Matter

We are Greate Esteem you most humble Ser^{ts}

STUART & BARR

Superfine flower 46/

Common D^o..... 43/

Indian Corn..... 4/ Dull for

the want of Vessells

Exchange—172£ for 100 Stg but the exchange must soon fall

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John g & Thomas Blount

Merchts

Washington

Per Capt Broadhurst

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 10th May 1793

I got home this morning from Hillsborough where I waited 20 Days in expectation of Seeing Molsey but was so completely disappointed that I did not even hear of her—Sharpe is gone to

Salem where he will wait for her until the 12th Inst.⁵²—I have rec^d. a Letter from M^r. Murdock⁵³ dated 8th January last in which he says he has rec^d. my letter dated at Richmond Virg^a. 18th Octo. & accepted my draft in favor of Col^o. Wilson for £472.10.0 Sterling—and that there will be still a Balance in his hands to the C^r. of J G & T B of £19.10.11^d—concerning the markets he writes in the following words “The Tob^o. markets every where begin to be rather better than they have lately been. Wheat & Flour are in very great demand in most parts of Europe & all other American Products bear tolerable prices.” Herewith M^r [Richard] Blackledge will deliver you a Letter from the Treasurer inclosing you a Receipt for the money you paid him for acco^t. of W. B. [William Blount] I shewed it to Davie & he approved of it— a M^r Genest [“Citizen Genet”] has arrived in Character of Ambassador from the Republic of France—I conversed [2] with him in Hillsborough [North Carolina] on Saturday last but he brings no news of later date than you have seen in the Papers—It being certain that France & England are at War, I would recommend to you to read the Treaty of Amity & Commerce between France & this Counry, & particularly to observe the 25th Article, before you send the Vessels you have now in port to Sea again—I think it probable that the Russel will get as full a freight back as she can bring—how do you go on with Tar Speculation & what has your friend the Judge proved himself to be? I am anxious to hear what has turned up in my long absence & what your present Schemes & Prospects are—Remember we owe Money here & can’t have it too soon—The sooner it is paid the better—I shall be obliged to go to Virg^a. soon in pursuit of Cooper I have heard that he has lately won 2700 Dollars & is going upon his long talked-of Voyage to Europe—all well

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

⁵²Molsey was the wife of William Blount and was expected to visit the Blounts while her husband was in Philadelphia on official business.

⁵³William Murdock who had befriended Thomas Blount when the latter was in England in 1787. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, London, July 7, 1777, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 316-319.

[3] you say that the Bell has ret^d. from a disappointed Voyage, but it is not the worst that might have been expected—Pray how bad is it? Has she brought any Money, & if she has not how are we to pay Hudson? I send by your Express what I had prepared to send by M^r. Blackledge—

THO. BLOUNT

11th May 1793

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount

Washington

M^r Blackledge

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH May the 14th. 1793

M^r. John G Blount Dear Sir the arrival of Spencer has Taken me on a Surprise, his agreement deliverd me saith the first of May [June, sic] it appears my agreement in his Possession say the 20th of may I must try to do something and endeavour to load him if Possible I have Bought the 100 bb^s. Tar from Johnson for Gershom Homer, and shall endeavour to have it ready by the appointed time, I wish you could lend me 25 H^{ds}. Pitch or if it was seventy I should be glad, so as to make Captain Spencer a load, M^r. Johnson Writes me I shall have Pitch from him the Next load his flat makes, can you Spare me from Twenty five to Seventy Barrels as it may be covenant to you You may Take 25 Barrels of Pork out of Johnson flat to go on Board the Brig as I think it Safer to ship the Pork in the Brig then such a Small Vessel you must Take Stokes load on Board the Brig and make out the Rest of her load within yourself Pray do hurry her away I fear She will not get to Norfolk by the first day of June and in case She does not [2] Arrive by that time it is likely they will not take the Naval Stores at the price they have Proposed should they not Take them I expect fully to Sink the freight, Please to take Bills of Loading from Cap^t. Spencer to deliver his cargo at Norfolk to Care of Warren Ashley Agent to Watson Stott & C^o. I have delivered Cap^t. Spencer a letter inclose one of the Bills of Loading in the same also please to send on one Bill of Loading by the Brig^t. and a Letter how you want the

freight paid I shou^d. be glad to know what you think of Wash-
ingtons procl^a. about makeing Naval Stores counterband Goods⁵⁴

I am D^r. Sir Respectfully

Yo mo obt. H^m. Serv^t.

Addressed: M^r John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

Peter Schermerhorn to John Gray & Thomas Blount

NEW YORK 16th May 1793

Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho^s. Blunt

Gentlemen:

Since I Rote you Last I have sold all the Articles, you
Ship^d. to me—By the, Brig^t. Mary Ann Cap^t. Horton sometime
ago—Except the Cotton Which has Bean Dull Sail for some time,
and am in hopes that I shall in a few Days Clear the Sails—of the
Cotton,⁵⁵ and Shall then Furnish You, With the Sales of the
Whole—and Your Acc^t. Current—Inclos^d. you have a price Cur-
rent Of Naval Stores. as they now Sell. tho some Has Bean High-
er—and am in hopes, the Prices Will Keep up—Should, they not
I will Informe you—and am With Respect—Your

Most Hum^l. Ser^t

PETER SCHERMERHORN

Addressed: Mess^{rs} John G. & Tho^s. Blount
Merch^{ts}
Washington

⁵⁴He was referring to the Jay Treaty which put timber for shipbuilding, tar, rosin, "and generally whatever may serve directly to the equipment of vessels, unwrought iron and fir planks only excepted," on the contraband list. It is not surprising that this brought a bitter reaction from southern states such as North Carolina where naval stores constituted an exceptionally large item in its export trade. William Malloy, compiler, *Treaties, Conventions, International Acts, Protocols and Agreements between the United States of America and Other Powers, 1776-1909* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 2 volumes, 1910), I, 590, ff.

⁵⁵Cotton was not an ordinary item in the Blounts exports. Trade with Schermerhorn continued through a long period of time during which cotton gradually increased in importance in exports from North Carolina.

*George Nicolson⁵⁶ to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND 18th May 1793D^r Sir

Cap^t. Midgett has at last arrived here with the 72bbbs Tar—I left the subject of the loss of the 40 bbls Tar to reference & told the Refrees that as the case was a hard one upon the young Man that tho' the deck Cargo was evidently at the Vessels risk⁵⁷ to consider it as if it was in the hold & also to be moderate in the valuation of the Vessel so as to bring the average as light as possible on the Cap^t. I inclose you their award yet the Cap^t is not satisfied as he does seem to understand the principal of average, when part of a Cargo is thrown over board for the preservation of the balance of the Cargo & Vessel that the Vessel should pay her proportion of the loss—

As he is a Stranger here & may suppose that I have taken the advantage you will please have the matter adjusted with him agreeable to the above principle [2] which is so long well established If any the Tar is found the Cap^t. is entitled to his proportion by paying his proportion of Salvage I shall write you by Post & am

Your mo. obt

GEO. NICHOLSON

Addressed: Mr. Jno G. Blount
Merchant
Washington

[attached] We the subscribers being apply'd to by M^r Geo Nicolson on one part and Cap^t. Francis Midget Master of the Boat called the Peggy from North Carolina on the other Part to settle a difference between them respecting the loss of a quantity of Tarr on a Passage from North Carolina to Virginia. having read the Protest and examined the Case as fully as is in our Power We are of opinion that the Vessel is liable to the Owner of the

⁵⁶George Nicolson of Richmond, Virginia, was a member of the firm of Pennock, Nicolson, & Skipwith. The Blounts carried on much trade with this firm and Nicolson and John Gray Blount engaged in speculation in corn in 1788. (*The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 375). The throwing overboard of a portion of a load in order to save the vessel was not an unusual occurrence.

⁵⁷In order to enlarge the vessels' carrying capacity, captains often loaded goods on the decks. This was a precarious business because the goods were likely to be washed overboard or, if the vessel began to become too difficult to control, the goods would be thrown off in order to save the vessel.

Tarr for the Cost of Twenty four Barrels in North Caroline. and that the same should be deducted out of the freight on the Cargo he brought here.

Richmond May 18. 1793

ZEDEDIAH LEEDS

SAM^l. PAINE

Addressed: Mr. Geo. Nicolson
p Capt Midget

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE June 2nd. 1793

D^r. Sir

By N. Pinham the articles you Shipt to me Came Safe to hand. am Very Sorry to inform you that hog^d. of Tobacco is Rot-ten and am oblig^d. to Send it back. when its much want^d. at this time and, place, as there is not one pound here, and has been this day ten people hear after tobacco not one pound Sold—To morrow morning I begin to Bring Shells from the Ol^d. Rock in a fine Boat that will Carry about 60 barrel of Tar and Eighteen Inches is her Draught of water—Cap^t. Wise[,] Will, and Angus is this day Sail^d. for New Bern with Meterials Saved from N. Smiths Brig^t. which is Lost on the Swastch and there to Grave the Beaver⁵⁸, and Get a Load Down from Carther for the Snow.⁵⁹ if Ready if not to come and not wait as I Exspect Many Down the Last of the week who I have to Lighter[.] Bradford [is] hear Landing of Staves and much Lumbered, and no Site of Stewart and Barrs Ship—the Bell and Ann bouth came Over the Swash without Lightering or Stopping and went Safe Over the Barr the 31st. with a Good S.W. wind⁶⁰—

Old Bell has this day gone from hear he Says the Vessell is a float and he is going to Virginia for Canvas. but I Still think he will go to no purpose, and he and his partenter will take the 1200 Dollars for her. She is the Best Vessell that I Ever [2] Saw or Ever Shall see of her Burthen—

⁵⁸The Blounts and Wallace were working on a warehouse for Shell Castle. The *Beaver* was one of the smaller vessels used at the Castle for lightering. It was taken out of service (graved) to be cleaned of barnacles, etc., and touched up with pitch to prevent leakage and preserve the life of the vessel.

⁵⁹A snow was a very large vessel, larger than a ship.

⁶⁰The *Bell* and the *Ann* were both brigantines and owned by the Blounts who used them in European and other seagoing voyages.

I will assist you with all the Cash I can Get, not to put my Self in Debt as I have a Deal to pay to my hands and Carpenters, I let Old Bell have a 100 ollars I have two good hands from him—the warehouse is not yet up but will have workmen to put it Next week if possible, the man that I Employed has Been Likly to Die and is Very Sick Yet. but there is a man on Cape hatterass that is as good as he which I can Get—

Adam Gaskins has Been Speaking to me about the man to keep the Light if there is one [a light house, sic] Built at Occacock, he says that Old Low has Been trying to Buy a house on Occacoke he Supposes to Get that port, he wishes to Get it if he can, he has wrote to you on the Subject and he is I beleave your friend and has highest opinion of your Brother T. [Thomas] of any man he Ever Saw or heard as a politition—N. B. he dose not ask this of you if you think it will Profit your friend or you, if not he wishes to Get the place, and friend-Ship of you your friends and T. and his friends and Interest. for my part I think if any man ought to have it Gaskins is the man—without you think wee can make money By it. do Speak to T. on Subject [3] and write me—

Our Old Lighter is now Repearing at John Fulfords and I Suppose will be maid good in a month from this, I wish you to Send a Line to him that I may have no money to pay I will Enquier the markets in the W Indian and Send you all oppertunitys. but now Refear you to M^r. Farris the bearer this.

Memorandum—1000 feet Inch Boarch

100 22 Inch Shingles

Juniper plank for Sistern—

1 Kegg of 20^d Nails all I Brought down was 10^d.8.^d [penny] and 6^d.

I was oblig^d. to let my Brother have part of the Board and Shingles to——* finnish [a] house a Shore for his famely—

I am Tierd of writing Shall be Glad to See you and family at S. C. [Shell Castle] in fig Season

Wee are all well

Yours

JOHN WALLACE

*The manuscript is torn.

P. S Send a hoghead of Good Tobacco if you Can JW

PS This Letter opened after Seal^d. by J. W.

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount

Mercht.

:

Washington

M^r. W^m. Farris

Richard Dobbs Spaight⁶¹ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 11th. June 1793

Dear Sir

I am sorry that we had not the pleasure of seeing you and M^r [Josiah] Collins during the Court—tho' the weather has been so extremely wet that it would have been verry bad getting to the Lake. Apropos, have you & Reading found Lake Allen? if you have, is it a speculation worth your Attention? The great quantity of rain which has fallen has been much against me in my lake business, over flowing all my *field* and preventing me from going on with my canal. If there should come a dry spell of weather, so that the pocoson⁶² would be fit to travel thro with some satisfaction I should be glad you and the Major [Reading Blount] would ride over and see the Lake as I should wish much to have both of your Opinions upon it. I can go with you at any time at a days Notice. The 20th. Instant the council are to meet after the[y] rise I shall be perfectly at leisure.

Anthony forgot to get the Bonovista Beans the morning we came away and I imagine it will soon be time to plant them—If an Oppertunity should offer I wou'd be much obliged to you to send me some with directions how to cultivate them—How has your Irish ditcher behaved? has he done your ditch or runaway? M^r. W^m. Blount gave me but a very [2] very indifferent account of him, and I fear he has served you in the same way promised more than he performed.

⁶¹Spaight was at this time governor of North Carolina. His interest in agriculture served to strengthen the bond of friendship between him and John Gray Blount. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 528n. 7.

⁶²He probably has reference to the Big Pocoson swamp in the northern part of Craven County. The word pocoson is said to have been borrowed from the Algonquin Indians and means swamp or dismal. *Federal Writers' Project of the Federal Works Agency* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1939), 286.

M^{rs}. Spaight Joins me in compliments to M^{rs}. Blount and miss Harvey—Believe me to be with Esteem

Your Sincere friend

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT

John [G.] Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Washington

Watson Stott & Company to John Gray Blount

SUFFOLK June 11st. 1793

M^r. Blount

Sir

We have been informed that your Brigantine Ann now at Norfolk is for Charter after having made one more Voyage to Norfolk from your State—If so we will on her arriving give her a load Naval Stores for London Bristole or Liverpool as is most agreeable to you—as the Port Charges are higher in London than at the two others we will allow you Seven Shill^{gs}. St^s. P bb^l. and if to the latter ones six & sixpence—true for these three weeks past fre^{ts}. [freights] have and are much higher—but they cannot or rather none of our Commodities will support them [higher rates] add to this a number of Vessels both American [2] and British are expected dayley—If your Vessel should want any repairs She can receive them at Norf^o. when loading and we should not require more than a week to do it in and 10 or 12 days to discharge in—The fre^t. Should be made pay^{ble}. here or at the Port of discharge as most agreeable to you a line in reply will oblige us, if possible by course of post

With sentiments of respect

Sir

Your m^o. Ob^d. Ser^t

WATSON STOTT & C^o

The Ann was expected to be ready to leave Norfolk this day by [2] my letters writ yesterday

Adressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Washington

N. Carolina

*Hall & Gerrard to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH June 11th. 1793

Sir

you will receive 8 barrels of flour by John Brenner, and 20 barrels of pork and three Keggs of Lard by Martin Brenner all of which we wish you to Ship in [y]our vessel bound to the west Indias & hold for the best prices in Cash.

we wish you to have the pork Coopered & pickled⁶³ before Shipped. there was So few of the peas they were not worth Shipping.—

We are Sir

Y^r. Ob^t. Serv^{et}.

HALL & GERRARD

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

William Blount to John Sevier

Copy*

WYTHE COUNTY [VIRGINIA] LINE, June 17th 1793

Dear Sir

By letters from David Allison I am informed that the President is very anxious for my arrival at Philadelphia and is of opinion that my Advice in Indian affairs will be [promptly, sic] attended to—If it is you hav my opinions and can readily judge the Consequences—a well directed natural War that shall teach the Indians the value of preserving the Treaties they have formed such an one as shall secure Peace to the South western Frontiers.—The Order respecting paying or rather not paying to Powers of attorney is reversed so that I presume the order in future will be to pay to Powers of attorney.—I shall make no delay but be back as soon as possible I suppose by 10th Sept. and will call and give you the News if you are not on a Campaign

I am with sincere esteem & C & C

W^m. Blount

General Sevier

⁶³Pork and fish were pickled by putting them in a brine solution. In some instances salt-peter was used as the preservative.

*This is either a copy or an unmailed letter.

*James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount*PHILADELPHIA 19th June 1793Mess^{rs} John G & Thomas Blount

Gentlemen

We Rec^d your favour of the 20th ulto ordering Conditional Inshurance,⁶⁴ on Brig Russell Captain Smith for Liverpoole Infavour of your Selves, Amos Johnstone & B Atkinson which we cant Get Effected on on your Conditions. The underwriters will Scarce ever, write Such Risques when In peacable Times

Your Brig Bell Ezekiel Cossa we can Get Inshured, If you will agree to have the following Warrentee Annexed to the Pollicy, your letter does not give us So much Liberty, we Have Therefore delayed the Inshurance for your orders which Shall be Instantly attended to as soon as we Receve Them

We shall not pretend to give advice on this Subject, the onley Risque you Run is that your Vessels may be putt out of their Course Should a french ship meet Them, and the Be in want of Navel Stores, If they Should order them into France they will pay the freight & the Stores will sell as well in france as Britton, by the Papers we sent you some time ago you will See that Navel Stores, are not Counted Warlike Stores & of Course are not forbid by the Powers at War to be Carried by Nutural Vessells, we Shall be happy to hear from you in answer to Ours of the 10 ulto we are with Greate Esteem your most Humble Serts Stuart & Barr

T. O. [Turn Over]

[2] Warrented against any Loss which may arise in Consequence of a Captaine Siezure or Detention of the Said Brig by the powers at War

The Premeums on Such Risques are from 2½ to 3½ Per Cent agreeable to the Spirits of the Day

J BARR

P S If you Know of a New Hull of a Vessell fit for the Navigation of your State for Sale Please Inform us the price & her

⁶⁴Insurance was often placed on a vessel after it had sailed and sometimes when it was overdue in reaching its destination.

Dimentions—your letter must [have] Lain by some where on
the way as we Rec^d it but a few Days ago

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho^s Blount

Merchants

Washington

North Carolina

Per Post

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN June 22nd. 1793.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 8th. Instant I have now before me and should have answered before but have never before to day had an Opertunity of sending the Leather to the Castle, have now sent by Captain Pitman a *Lighter for M^r. Turners Brigg* as follows. thirteen Sides of Soal Leather Weight Nill two hundred and fourteen pounds, also fourteen pieces of upper Leather Amounting to fifteen pounds 17/—and the Soal leather I sell here at 2/3^d Plb all of which I have informed Captain Wallace of by Letter.—The Young Man which we have got I think will turn out well; and we shall only have to supply him with Hides & Back I have purchased about forty pounds worth of Back since I wrote you and only about Ten or twelve pounds worth Hides, in doing of which I have been Obliged to use some Money in my hands which I expect to be obliged to make up when M^r. Skinner comes forward to execute the Pirates and must count on you for the same therefore hope you will be prepared that I may not suffer. I am greatly in hopes you will be able to furnish a prety large quantity of Hides I shall lay out to the last farthing to secure a Stock of Back and Hides, and when we can get a Quantity that will do to Ship to Philad^a. I will do so. this is now the season and with Cash I could secure what quantity I wanted of either [2] I can asssure you that being Obliged to purchase Provisions Corn &c. for the Tan Yard as well as my House and Plantation leaves me very often pennyless. however hope to be better off the next year—⁶⁵ Candidates for the ensuing Election.

⁶⁵Neale, who was John Gray Blount's brother-in-law, was a very poor financier. He sometimes found it necessary to call on John Gray for assistance. At this time John Gray had encouraged him to undertake a tanning business and Neale was enthusiastic enough with the beginning, but problems soon arose which he had difficulty in handling.

Senate	Commons.	Town
John Carney	Jn ^o . Tillman	Jn ^o . Frank Smith
Jn ^o . C. Bryan	Jn ^o . Allen	Isaac Guion & ^c
	D ^o . Witherspoon & ^c	Abner Nash but
	I am told L. Rees.	he will withdraw

the parties have run hight for the Appointment of a Sheriff which has occasion'd this spirited Election and Oposition seems to be the Theme in all Companies. We have no Sheriff but *three Coroners* Javis Buxton. William Dudley & William Moore This is I believe the principle part of the News.

I am Sir

yours as usual

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Doct. Cuyler

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH 24th. June 1793

M^r John Blount

D^r. Sir I have not as yet heard any think from the Brigg Ann woud thank you to let me know if you have heard any thing from her since She sailed from washington—I see in the Norfolk Papers the Russel was spoke the 12th. of May and all well—I woud wish to give you timely notice I shall want the Russel another Voyage should she return Safe, I shall be in want of 500 Bushels of Saint Martins⁶⁶ Salt this faul shou.d be glad to know if you can furnish me at a moderate Price, I have Rec^d. part of the money from M^r. Bell for the sugar, should be glad to know if Homer paid you for the Tarr I am &^c. Sir Sincerely

Your Most Ob^t.

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: M^r. John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

By M^r. Spain

⁶⁶St. Martin was one of the West Indies located east of the Virgin Islands.

John Smith to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL June 26th 1793

Mr. John G. Blount.

Sir/

I arrived at this port the 11th Instant after a Tolerable agreeable passage of forty four days, without any damage to Vessel or riging. at my Arrival I found the Mr. Lakes had quit business owing as they Inform me by the fallure of the Banks. In that case he has turn^d. me over to Mr. [J. E. sic] matthews, who Transacts all your business Under the direction of the Mr. Lakes, the Russel is now unloaded and directly out of the grav-ing dock, where her bottom Has under gone a Very good over-hawling at which time She much needed, She is now under a charter party to perform a Passage from this to City point in Virginia, for the sum to two Hundred Pounds British Sterling, together with Ten pounds primage, to sail in all July But I much expect to Sail by the 20th at farthest as nearly all the goods are all ready come to Town—the[y] Estimate Her cargo to near 15 m. Sterling In consequence of their large Sipment, [shipment], they oblige me to put the Brig in good [2] Repair—the collectors of this port at my Entering Oblige me to discharge my Two Englishmen—(Dick [a Negro slave]) has run away the ballance due him left behind—I have nothing very particular to add.) only that Trade at this place is much Stagnated by the war, no money—no confidence) I Remain

sir your most ob^t.

JOHN SMITH

P. S. Herewith you have the prices Current of American pro-duce at this port— J S

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Post master

Washington

North Carolina

Ship Sarah Capt Martin

*James Barr to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA 26th June 1793

Mr. John G Blount

Dear Sir

We Recved your favour of June the 5 with a Bill of Lading for 80 Barrells of our Tar & 16 Bags of Cotten for your account which we have not yet seen & Cant Say what it will Bring we feare it will be hard to sell But will use our Best endeavours in they Sale of it, allso yours of 10 of June per Capt Eastwood with his note for 110 Barrells of our Tar, the Sale you made to him of that Small Quantity we Consider fortunate and wish they Remainder was as well Sold as it is plenty here & no purchasers, We wrote you the 3^d Instant by Capt Miles of Sloop Fanney with Goods you orderd for A Johnstone to the amount of £78.10.8 which we hope you have Received and on the 19 Instant we wrote you Respecting the Inshurance you had orderd on Brig Russel & Brig Bell to which please Refer,

Since which your following Bills on us has Come to hand withoute any advice from you Viz To John G. L. Schneck for 800 Dollars[;] A Simpson 350[;] Drs Thompson Richardson & C^o 470 Dollars, all of which we have accepted and Shall pay when Due, We were in hopes you would not have Been under the Necssity of Drawing so much on us for that Cargo and we flattered oureselves you would have got the money due us from Mess^{rs} Whites Before this time,⁶⁷ Unless you will Please to Assist us in that Matter we feare we Shall [2] Loose the Money We will be much obliged to you for the account of the Cargo you have purchased for us and Our account with you as soon as Possible please to have it Stated from the Ballance which was Struck when you Sold us the Brig that we may be Ennabled to Close our accounts to Mutual Sattisfaction and to Compare yours with ours—Give us your Opinion If you think our Staves Could be Sold in Charles Town [South Carolina] Withoute much Loss; to us as part of them Lyes at the Castle where the Storeage & Dainger is Greate we must Request you to act for us to the Best of your Judgement in this Matter so that

⁶⁷This was a long standing obligation. See Letters for 1790, page 50ⁿ. 99, above.

we may Suffer as Little Loss as Possible we Shall be happy to hear from you fully with our accounts as Soon as Possible Mony is Scarce here[.] We are with

Esteem your most Humble Serv^{ts}

STUART & BARR

Respected Frend

You will much oblige me in Particular in favouring us with an answer fully to this Letter and our accounts

I am with Greate Respect yours

J BARR

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

per post

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 30th June 1793

Dear Sir

Your's of 15th ult: I received two Days ago on my Return from Albany which Place I had visited. It was not the Bill of lading for a single Hhd of Tobacco that I wanted. I wished you to inform me who the Person or Persons were to whom you had shipped all the Tobacco of mine that was in your Hands Ann [anno.]: 1786,7, for no Account has ever been rendered me of the Sale of a single Hhd of that Tobacco except of 2 Hhds. Be so good as inform me who it was that rec^d. that Tobacco.

Gov^r. Blount has been expected here with some Indians for six or eight weeks and his last Letter to the Sec^y at War dated 2 or 3 Weeks ago expresses his Hope that he will be able to bring the Indians with him. [James] Carey the Interpreter left this 2 days ago expecting to meet him on the Road.

No Intercourse is permitted to Amer. Vessels with any Island of the British West Indies except with Providence of the Bahamas and considering the constitutional rascality of their Gov^r. Dunmore a Vessel had better be sunk empty than sent thither with a Cargo. There are no Hopes of a commercial Treaty.

Such is the great Freight allowed Amer. Vessels for taking wheat, Flower &c that no Vessels from this Port will take Naval Stores, but several Merch^{ts}. tell me they think there is no Risque in shipping immediately for France. If an english Cruiser should chance to detain the Vessel, the Government as we are [2] are told will allow a generous Price. They [the English] have taken one Cargo of Flower and paid for it so as to give no Cause of Complaint to the Shipper. The Accounts from Håver de Grace in March last stated Tar @ 80 livre payable in Assignats, 3 livres being worth 14¹/₂ Stg which is 31/9 Stg nearly, a decent Price. Hitherto the American flag in the European seas has been properly respected.

I have been attempting to sell Lands, to a foreign House, viz the Lands on Obion. But I could get no definitive Answer until I would say How much I can sell and what is the lowest Price. For myself I would readily sell at 25 Dlsr the 100 A^s. This seems little, considering that it cost £10 in Certif^s. That there is 7 or 8 Years Interest to be added & that ¹/₄ has been given for locating, beside the surveying. But I consider the Property as very precarious for the following Reasons. Our Minister at Madrid [William Carmichael, sic] has lately discovered that the Navigation of the Mississippi is not like to be ceded, & the Spanish Minister in Philad^a. a few days ago presented a memorial to our Sec^y of State complaining that we have by the Treaty with the Creeks been incroaching on their Lands, and saying that the Court of Spain must see Justice done to the Creeks as their Allies. This is a clear declaration that they mean not to let us extend our settlements. This is only a continuation, more avowed of the old System. Be so good as say by next Post what is the smallest Price at which you are willing to sell & I shall conduct accordingly. Don't omit answering the first & last Paragraphs of this Letter.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

[3] P. S. A Gentleman just arrived from Harve tells me that Tar when he come away was worth 6 Dlsr. the Brl.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

N: C:

John Smith to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL July 4th 1793

Mr. John G. Blount

Sir/

I arrived at this port the 11th of June, after a tolerable agreeable Passage of forty four days, without Any Damage to Vessel or Riging—at my Arrival I found the Mr. Lakes had Quit business, owing as they Inform me by the failure of the banks On that case they have turned me over To a Mr. J Matthews, who Transacts all your business under the directions of the Mr Lakes—the Vessel is now unloaded, & Directly out of The graving dock where her bottom Has undergone a Very good Overhawling, at which time She much needed—She is now under A Charterparty to perform a passage From this to City point in Virginia For the Sum of two hundred pounds British Sterling, together with ten pounds Primage to sail in all July But I much expect to Sail by the [2] Twentieth at furthest as nearly all the goods Are already come to town, they Estimate Your cargo to the amount of near 15 m Sterling. In consequence of their large Shipment They oblige me to put the Brig in good repair—the Collector of This port at my entering oblige me to discharge my two English Men—(Dick) has runaway the Balance du him left behind[.] Trade at this place is Very much Stagnated owing to the warr[—] no money no Confidence—herewith you have the prices current—I have the pleasure to Inform you of the Bells arrival Yesterday after a passage of 34 days previous to this I have wrote you by way of Baltimore of which this is nearly the copy—I Shall particularly attend to yours by [Captain Ezekiel] Cossa I Remain

Your most obed^t

JOHN SMITH

NB No primage here—
on naval Stores—

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Post Master
Washington
N^o. Carolina

William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

Copy

LIVERPOOL July 5th. 1793

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho. Blount

Gent.

The few opportunities that present themselves from this port direct to North Carolina has prevented me the pleasure of replying to your much esteem'd Favors of the 31 Mar & 2^d. Ap^l. both delivered to me by Cap^t. Smith of your Brigg Russell. and I have now the satisfaction also to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the _____ *by the Bell Cap^t. Cossa.

The late partnership between my Brother and myself being by mutual consent dissolved and all the foreign business by agreement falling to my lott, I take the pleasure of addressing you in my single name, and embrace with much satisfaction this opportunity. to offer you my best services on every occasion here and to assure you that every exertion on my part shall be us'd [used] to promote your interest in any thing you may commit to my care. The distress'd state of this Country through the ruinous consequences of the Continental War in which we are engaged is not to be described, [2] in short the Commercial World has received such a stroke through the various Bankruptcies that have hapen'd, that it has call'd forth the aid of Government who have isshued Five Millions of Exchequer Bills to avert the fatal consequences to the kingdom that might otherwise ensure, and this as well as other Corporate Towns make use of their Credit under a special Act of Parliament for the same laudable purpose. In the midst of this general Pestilential contagion (few if any in extensive business having excaped present inconvenience) I am happy in assuring you that my Brother and myself have got entirely clear of all those connections that have felt publick distress on this occasion & that I am happy in the enjoyment of a moiety of the Capital Fortune my late Father in Law Mr. Orange died possess'd of and settled on Mr^s Lake. I should apologise for this egotism did not the peculiar situation of the times here require it, and its being necessary as a ground work of that mutual confidence that I hope will be productive of a Correspondence of long mutual advantage.

* Left blank in manuscript.

Agreeable to your wishes respecting the Russel I advertis'd her for freight to any part of the Continent preferring North Carolina if possible to get one there, that not being to be done I have embrased the opportunity of one offering to City Point [Virginia] and [3] think myself fortunate in getting £200 for the run there reserving 5 Tons as Room for your own Goods, with this freight she will sail in all this month.

I had determined to ship the amount of what ballance I have in my hands in the Articles of Cutlery express'd in your abstract agreeable to your wishes, but as the Bell has made her appearance it is my present intention if no better certain good freight offers, to put in her Salt and your goods (including the amount of the Bells Cargo) Direct for Washington & sett her on by advertisement as a general freight ship for North Carolina.

I shall pay Mr. Forbes £90 also the balance due to Mr. Murdock, and agreeable to your instructions insure each Vessell & the Cargo on your Account.

In answer to your enquiry on what terms I would ship the full amount of your abstract for dry Goods I beg leave to inform you that I shall have peculiar pleasure in executing your orders for the amount of any of your productions you may consign to me or of any Bills you may remit to me for that purpose, but without effects in hand I do not ship any Goods[,] a plan universally adopted now both here and in London. [4]

I beg leave to annex you a Price Current⁶⁸ of your productions & to subscribe myself with true Esteem

Gent^t.

Your most obet Serv^t.

W^m. CHA^s. LAKE

Original P the Atlantic Via Norfolk
[No address]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 6th July 1793

Dear Sir

I wrote you six days ago respecting the Messissippi Lands, Nothing has since occurred to make me alter my Opinion, every

⁶⁸A price list is attached to this letter.

late Information tends rather to confirm the Opinion I have expressed unfavourable to that Property. I told you that the Court of Spain has lately by its Minister here, for the first Time avowed its Intention to support the Claim of the Creek Indians *its friends and Allies* against our Claims to certain Land *fraudulently* taken from those Indians at the Treaty at New York made with M^c.Gillivry & Co. This accounts for the Georgia Disturbances. A Man from Kentuckey who is just arrived with Tobacco Via Orleans says that he met Troops on their Way up the Messissippi going to erect a Fort at the Chickasaw Bluff. Thus you see we will be pretty well hamper'd. You are not to wonder that a Man in my Situation, whose Estate is not large, should prefer a small Certainty [2] to any thing that *possibly*, during the next Century, may accrue from those Lands. But Harris who makes Money by his Law and you by Merchandise may possibly resolve to *win the Horse or lose the Saddle*, to get a large Price or none. However when you have fixed your Price I shall sell or otherwise as I may find it practicable.

We expect the Gov^r [William Blount] in Town to day he was at Alexandria detained by the Ague on Tuesday 2nd Inst:

I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

N: C:

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA STEWART & BARR'S STORE

July 10th 1793

Dear Sir,

I embrace the Opportunity to inform you that I arrived here yesterday quite recovered of the Ague & Fever which attacked me at Richmond. Great Warmth prevails here respecting the French and British War—Citizen Genet bids fair to be a very unpopular Character—Maj^r. [James Cole] Mountfloreance is arrested at the suit of a lady on a Breach of Contract of Matri-

mony which is really like to give him much Trouble—He is also arrested for an old debt by the Trustees or Assignees of Mr. Mackie so that he is in much Trouble and I don't know how he will be relieved.—

Its uncertain when I shall leave this or which way I shall return but I hope in 15 or 20 days & by Washington &c. &c.

I am dear sir,

your's &c

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^r.

Cap^t. Hopkins

James Barr for Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

John G Blount Esq^r

PHILAD^a 10 July 1793

Dear Sir

We wrote you the 27 ulto to which Refer, Since Which we have Sold your Cotten to Samuel Craig of *Alexandria Virginia*, on a Credit of 6 months for 1/5 per pound Contrary to our expectation & make no Doubt you will be Sattisfied with the Sale Since which, we have Rec^d your favour of the 20 ulto per Hopkins & we have Rec^d your Indigo, Box [of] Fur[s] & 5 Cat Skins which are yet on hand, but we shall attend to the Sale of them Indigo is so plentey here that they holders are Bartering it for Wine & other Goods, We wont Sell your Indigo under 7/6 untill further orders, Good Green Coffee will now Command 14^d where the Duty can be Drawn Back for Exportation[.] Sugar Rum & Molasses are falling fast here the are allways Sold agreeable to their Quality Viz 4^{sh}[;] proof Rum 5¼^d[;] Mollases at Vanduce [Vendue,] a few days ago at 29 Cents per Gall[;] Good S^t Croix Sugars 80/[.] Your Guns may Sell but we Cant Inform you any thing Respecting the price the[y] would Bring as they must be Sold at Publick Sale, from 10/ to 12/ freight per Barrell has Been Given from here to they West Indies & 15/ oute & home for Several Vessells But that Rage has abated as well as the Sale of Vessels, there is But Litle Risque of your Brig meeting with a freight from the West Indies [2] to this place & Back to the West Indies But all the West Indies Swarm with Brittish privateers who Carrey in a greate part of the

American Vessells who have French Property on Board as you will See by the paper we send you[.] Good Wheate has Last year Sold from 7/6 to 8/6[.] Corn at present 4/4 & plenty in Market but has Stood at 3/6 to 3/9 Greate Part of the season[.] Sup^r fine flower now at £7/6 Common 45/ Midlings 40/ But must soon fall when New [crop] Comes to Market which will be in a short time—

We think there can be But Little Risque of Selling the Staves [owned by Stewart and Barr] to Simpson,⁶⁹ for a Bill on Fife if he Should faile, the money Could be Recov^d from Simpson, as he must have many debts in your State, obtain the Bill on as Short a sight as you Can, you live near Simpson & May have Better Information of Him than us, & If you know aney-thing that is Suspicious, do not Sell to him If there should be no well founded Report, make Sale of them on the Best Terms in your power

We have no further a/c of our Ship & Begin to be anctious aboute her, when oppertunity offers Ship on the Remainder of the Navel Stores If you Cant sell them with you, the Still Continue to fall in price here & none is Shipped we sold what Come in Hopkins [3] Viz Tar 10/6 Pitch 14/ Because we Could not Get a Store to put them in[.] you will much oblige us by forwarding the accounts we are with Greate Respect your

Humble Ser^{ts}

STUART & BARR

Col Thomas has just Called on us & Acquaints that your Brother Came to town Last Night our J B has not yet seen him JB Enclosed you have a Letter from D[r.] Williamson & one from Aⁱ Thomas

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr
Mercht
Washington

John Whedon to John Gray Blount

[BAY RIVER,⁷⁰ July 11th, 1793]

Dear Sir

As I wrote you in my last that I had Shipt off all the bb [barrell] Staves I had on hand in the Sloope and your^s. to me

⁶⁹This was probably John Simpson of Pitt County. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 368n. 1.

⁷⁰Located on the eastern coast of North Carolina between the Pamlico and Neuse rivers.

to decline Razing mony for any more did not Expect the Sloop
To Call hear on her Return home for which Reason She hath
Come on Expected [unexpected] and found us on prepared
[unprepared] for her not Having aney Lumber in hand but in
preferance to Sending Her home Empty I thought it would be to
your Interest To detain her until I Could collect a load for her
of Such Lumber as I could command Soonest[.] I amediately
Called on those who I have Credeted who was In general Ready
To Serve me with 20^m by Saterday Night[.] in the course of
What time the Extreem Westerly winds hath so Reduced the
Water out of the creeks So that it is on posible for the People
to get there Lumber from the Usal landings. Which has caused
the Sloop a longer detainsion than She would Have had and
has cot [caught] me Short of the Quantity of Lumber I Expected
to have Sent[.] I must beag you will not Sensure Me as I Sar-
tainly have done as I Expected would be Most for you^r. Interest

I have Sent back the bb Sugar as it will not Sell for 2/- and
Shipt the Rum Powder and Shott as I find they will Sell
for White oak Lumber full pay at the prices charged—

I have Shipt the Somer goods and have on hand the more
Part of 3 Kigg^s. of Nales if you Should decline takeing any R^o.
[red oak] Lumber you will wright me[.] I don^t. Expect to have
any Lumber on hand until the fall that ma be worth your
Sending for. you ma by inquireing easy find out where the Resin
and Sugar went that was Taken out of the casks you Sent me
last and by that you will find who attends or Super Intends
you^r. business faithfuly [2] the Sloop arived hear on Sunday
Evening the Last of June and Leaveth this the 11th July With
only the Sugar and dry goods and

5^m8^c:34^{catt} R^o. Hh^d. Staves

2..... 24 R^o. Pipes—[red oak pipe staves]

1..... 9 W^o. Pipe^s [white oak pipe staves]

1-:6:16 W^o. Hh^{ds}.

7..... 15 W^o. bb-

Which make ne sriry [necessary] I detained the Sloop
And am Sir you^r. Obd^t. Humble Ser^t.

JOHN WHEDON

BAY RIVER July 11th 1793

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

Josiah Jones to John Gray Blount

[July 14, 1793.]

July 14 Day 1793 Dear Sir

This Comes to Let you know That I mean ofering my self as a candadate⁷¹ if youth [you] Will Plese to mak me what intrast y can for you Can do as you Plese wit Thes in habents[.] my nabros intrust is much against Charls Crafird [Crawford] and declers them Selves for Canady and Grice [Frederick Grist] if I will not ofer[.] But if I will ofer thea will Before [be for] me and Bryan Blunt and i hav advertized my Self down Below and Should Be Glad to have answar from you as quick as posable and hope you will Let me know how to per Seed [proceed] in the mater so no mor[e] at prt [present].

But I am your to Ser and So forth

JOSIAS JONES

Addressed: John G : Blount Asq^rPer faveu By M^r. Samul Riggs*Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount*

EDENTON July 16th 1793

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 8 Ins^t. is to hand I have no late News from the West Indies, Armisteads Brig Sailed from this for S^t. Bartholomews last Week loaded with Corn, Stewarts Brig will sail this week & a Schooner & a Sloop loaded with Corn & Peas so that in all probality they will all get in about the same Time which will lower the Market, though if you push you will be in before them. On Wetnesday last M^r. Hamilton⁷² thought propper to tell me I told a falsity, at which I took the liberty of giving him a pretty desent thrashing, as no person was Near to us, so as to prevent me, he told me I should pay for it, Whether in flesh Blood or Purse I dont Know but suppose the latter as I have not Yet heard from [him] on the Subject, he went down two days after to Pasquotanck, in Consequence of which I am

⁷¹He had reference to an election in Beaufort County. Connor, *Manual of North Carolina* (1913), 495.

⁷²This was probably John Hamilton who represented Edenton in the house of commons, 1789-1792.

a Candidate for the Town, I offered in a passion, for which I am Sorry, as it is a business I never had intended to embark in, & I believe it is pretty Certain I shall be Elected, I hope you'll go for Your County, we have a Choice in this Election both in Town & County the Candidates Are Benbury & Creecy Senet [senate;] Cabarrus Roberts Sutton & C Hall C^o. [County or house of commons;] Hamilton Moris & Blount [for the] Town [Edenton⁷³].

Yours &c

JACOB BLOUNT

turn Over

[2] When I forwarded Your Certificates I directed Bar [James Barr] to make use of 200 Dollars on my Acc^t. and the Ballance to forward to Me as soon as possible since which have not heard from him but Suppose I Shall Next post, & will forward to you the 200 Dollars laid out for me & the Ballance by first opportunity, Under Neath you have the Am^t.

90.54 C^{ts}. of 6PC^t)

47:26 Deferd-) Domestick

67''90 63 P C^t)

205''70

37''03..... 6 P C^t

15''52

26:66....

82:21

287''91

188''64 Loan Office Certificates Spice Palece

475

J BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Washington

⁷³Those elected were senate—Samuel Creecy; house of commons—Stephen Cabarrus, Richard Benbury, James Roberts; and Edenton—Jacob Blount.

*John Wallace to John Gray Blount*SHELL CASTLE July 17th. 1793

Dear Sir

by Reubin Wallace I Send to you for 6 or 8 thousand of 22 Inch Shinglles 12 or 15 hundred of boards for to finish the weather boarding. and plank Enough to Lay bouth the floors as we have not more hear then will make the Doors and windows. wee have now two Carpenters at work if I cannot Get plank and Shingles I must be obliged to Discharge them before the house id (done) they have not more work then will last till Sunday—

please to Send a barrel of Good Sugar for ours is Just out— three Barrels of Tar[,] 2 Gallons of Varnish[,] a Barrel of Porks and Some Baccon and apples if to be had—

4 of the Negroes that I hiered from Cove Sound Stold our Boat on Saturday night and Ran away, I have been from then till now after them have ketch one of them and got the boat again—the Other three Nat Pinchkam is after and I think well Get them this week; I am obliged to put will [Will] in the flat to bring Shells; the Beaver we have Just Cleaned and Give her a bottom of Rosin [2] and whale Oil whitch I think is best Ever was put on a Vessel Bottom. 4 Gallons of oil and one B^l. of Rosin leans her twice, about the 26th. I Shall come in the Beaver about the Staks. No Nuse hear from any place nor nothing to do but work, your oder [order] on Maxey he wold not pay[,] flint I settld and will bring your money when I come[,] any thing that you want to know that I have not wrote you Enquir of Reubin and please to Despatch him as Soon as possible. I Send you a mess of Coccles also to Major Blount his home spun for Trousers.

all well hear

Your

JOHN WALLACE

P. S. I Sent to bay River for Shingles and none to be had at the place

J W

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

by R Wallace

*Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a 20th July 1793

John G Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

We wrote you the 10 Instant by Capt Hopkins to which Refer Since which we have attempted to make sale of your Box Furs and are Sorrey to Inform you that on openinging them we found them uttmost Destroyed by the Worms & at foot you have the price we obtained for them in the Course of all our Business we never Saw aney So much Dammaged we have Just Rec^d the Disagreeable News that our Ship Friendship is Carred Into Jamaco and to day we Learn that She was Bound from Nants for this port with Bale goods & passengers We Know not what will be the fate of the Ship In many Cases the Have Condemned the Goods & Sesed the Ships freight when the Cargo was found to be French we have no Letter from our Captain Since the Ships arrival in Nants the mate & Six hands were taken oute of the Ship on the 20th of may when they Captured the Ship,⁷⁴ he writes us the 16 of June of the Harbour of entegua but does not Say what the Ship had in or where She was Bound we are with Great Esteem you most Humble Serts

STUART & BARR

[2] Sold Andrew Tylonte

32 Minks Dammaged	3 ^d	£08
2 RackoonsD ^o	2/	4
2 D ^o Rubbish	6 ^d	1
2 Gray Fox Damg ^d	2/6	5
1 D ^o Rubbish	3 ^d	-3
5 Wild Cats Damg ^d	2/	10

 £18 3

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr

Mercht

Washington

Capt Goodman

⁷⁴The British vacillated in their policy with regard to the treatment of captured vessels. Sometimes they would be allowed to continue their course, at other times the ships and their cargoes might be confiscated.

Henry Tuley⁷⁵ to John Gray Blount

[July 23, 1793]

Mr Blount
Sir

As well as I remember we Talk^t about intch boult Rod for the floors I have considered on it since it will be best to have them intch and Eight—I have got about one half of the ships fraim but it is allmost imposabel to git hands to work in the woods at this season of the year without money to pay down[.] by our Cotract I have no right to Expect it but should it be covenant pleas to send me sum by Mr Benj Russel his Resiet [receipt] shall be good for the sum Re^d. this from your humbel s^t—

HENRY TULEY

July 23^d 1793Addressed: John Grey Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

favored by Mr Russel

*Cox Coart⁷⁶ to John Gray & Thomas Blount*WALLACE'S CHANNEL July 25th. 1793

Sir

We arrived at the swash yesterday Morning and Lightened over, and have now got the Lighter discharged and shall proceed to sea tomorrow Morning if the winds are favourable, and am determined to touch at Norfolk, tho' I could not obtain Mr. Petersons permission to that effect, I do not think his objection necessary to be made for it cannot (in my opinion) injure the Sale of his Cargo even were we to sell at Norfolk, the detention must in all probability operate in his favour, for if the Markets are now glutted in the West-Indies they will have time to consume what is on Hand or vent them some way before we get there, the only thing then is that more Vessels may arrive in the Islands while we are detained, which cannot be. I am informed by two different opportunities that Markets in Virginia

⁷⁵Henry Tuley had built several vessels for John Gray Blount. Although he was almost illiterate, he seems to have been a good workman.

⁷⁶Cox Coart had been trained by the Blounts and this seems to have been his first voyage as a supercargo.

for [2] for all kind of provisions are high. This way of calling at Purge is of all things the most reproachful it has caused us some detention, and find no sort of benefit except the getting a Mate, however Captain is by no means a friend to it, and promises now that he will guard against such Evils; We have a Man whose name is Tooley for a Mate, I cannot say I am pleased with him for I think he lacks industry and seamanship, but has a perfect knowledge of Navigation which was the only thing in Cap^t. Smith I thought doubtful. I have received from the Castle thirteen sides of Leather 214 lb. that is, at the weight M^r. [Abner] Neale hands Gov. Wallace in his Letter. I send an Invoice of the Cargo we at present have on Board.

I am with respect towards M^{rs}. Blount and family

Your ob. Serv^t.

COX COART

Recollect that we have to touch at Norfolk and not [3] knowing what Cash may be necessary to clear me of that place in Case I do not sell, have taken the liberty to draw from Governor Wallace 20 Dollars instead of the ten I obtained your permission to draw for, which I hope may meet your entire approbation.

Yours

COX COART

Addressed: John Gray & Tho. Blount
Merchants
Washington

William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL July 31, 1793

Mess^{rs}. J: G: & Tho Blount
Gent^t.

By my Letter of the 5th. Ulto copies of which were sent by different opportunities and now also enclose you one, you will be prepar'd for Cap^t. Smiths arrival in Virginia, the pleasing account of which I shall be happy to receive. I now inclose you Sales of your Consignment by the Russell (the Staves excepted for want of a demand for them) the Neat proceeds amounting to £46.19.4 to your Credit I also annex his inward freight note

amount^s. to £222.2.6 also at your Credit & furnish you with my Account Current on the Russells [2] Consignment Balance due to me £11.2.9 the whole of which transaction I hope may meet your concurrence. It is particularly in my line to Know the impossibility there is for small vessells to get money without the most rigid economy, which I have not faild in particularly attending to & wish to remark to you that the Russells disbursements wou'd not have been so high had not Cap^t. Smith thought there was an absolute necessity for her to go in the Graving Dock, & the approaching Season of the year with the nature of her Cargo obtain'd my concurrence. I hope to write to you again [within] a few days by Cap^t. Cossa who being bound direct to Washington I hope will reach you a very few days after this & 'till then subscribe myself

Gent. Your most obed Serv^t

W^m. CHA^s. LAKE

Edward Forbes to John Gray & Thomas Blount

DUBLIN 2^d August 1793

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Thomas Blount

Washington N^o. Carolina

Gent.

My last respects was the 9th March Via Liverpool, Since received by the Same Channel your Esteemd of the 10th. April—adviseing having ordered M^r. W^m. Ch^s. Lake of Liverpool to remit me Ninety Pounds St^s. which I received the 24th. July in three bills not yet due, & for which you have Credit, in the inclosed Account Current, Ball^{ce}. thereof being £11.7.3^d Irish is placed at Your Debit in New Acco^t. which if found right on examining have Noted in conformity. The Bark turn'd out more in Weight then I credited the Sales, but unfortunately I was forced to abate thereon 35 5/P Ton on the Whole—on account of a considerable part being damp, & discoloured, & mildew'd, & at this abatement, it was thought, a hard Bargain.—And am Sorry to say American Barks is not near so much esteem'd as it used to be, I have just arrived from Newyork about 40 Ton's of it Ground & pack'd in Casks, which our Tanner's refuse to buy, but at a very low price, nay few of them will buy it on any term's

Consequently can't encourage your Shipping any to this place Ground, Should you Ship any let it be *unground*, the Outer Rind well paid off. Annexd is the [2] prices Current, and am very respectfully Gent

Your obed^t. Ser^t.

EDW^d. FORBES

Turpentine 9¹/P C^k [Cask]

Tar..... 17/6 a 20¹/P bbl

Pitch..... 25/P D^o

Rozin yellow £13 P Ton

Beeswax yellow—21^d a 22^d P lb duty 20¹/P C^k.

Honey—if *Good*—6/P Gallon

Oil Turpentine 40/ a 45/P C^t.

Deer Skins in the hair, Winter, 20^d a 2^s/4^d P lb as in quality free from pates & feet.

Barel Staves—free from Sap. £7. a £8 Pm [per thousand]

Hhd D^o. if Good breaths [breadths] £10 a £12 Pm

New flaxseed clean & fit for Sewing—may *Sell in Spring* from 50^s/a 60^s/—D^o. for oil 40^s/P Hhd, of Seven winchester Bushels,—

P S:

When the Sales of the Bell's Cargo was furnishd there was a Small post Entry Omitted, which was obliged to pay, Owing to the Stricktness of the Surveyor, which is charged in your Acco^t.

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. J G & Tho^s. Blount

Merch^{ts}. in

Washington

N^o. Carolina

p Russell)

via Liverpool)

Cox Coart to John Gray Blount

NORFOLK August 2nd 1793

Sir

I wrote you last night by Post informing you of my Arrival but had not time before the Departure of the Mail to give you a state of the Markets of this place, I find on enquiry that I could not obtain the first cost of our Cargo, even had the people Cash, but to be sure they are the poorer sort of the world for

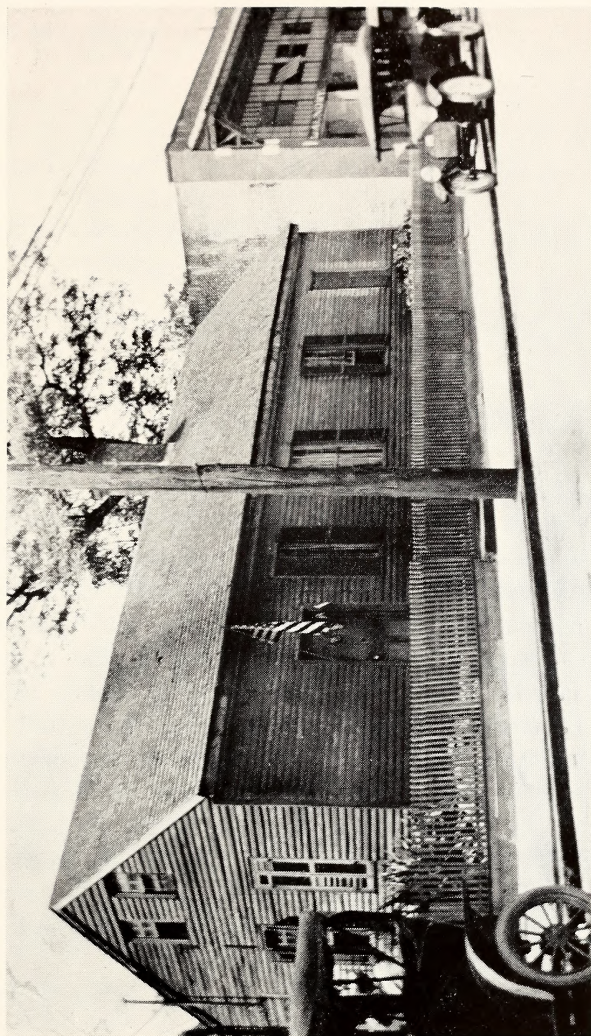
you cannot hear of any Man who purchases for Cash, nor even Bills, but every one seems desirous to try the strength of his Credit, I could have sold well had we been lucky in getting here before the removal of the French Fleet, but poor miserable creatures they had no Cash, and their Bills on Philadelphia were doubtful and that was the only resource the wretches had, to seek them would be a folly unless there was a certainty of being paid; the occasion of this Fleet leaving here was on account the Worms eating their Vessels, the smaller ones have gone to Baltimore, the larger to New York, there is nothing that will be in demand amongst [2] amongst them except salted provisions, and them will be high during their stay, is the general opinion of this place. Mr. Pennock informs me there was a Vessel arrived at this with a Load of Cattle and Sheep but could not sell one nor is the prospect of Markets for Beef likely to afford a man even a tolerable profit, the present is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3^d . P lb and a dull sale even at that, you find the Markets here glutted with all sorts of provisions

We were spoke on our passage round by a French Cruizer who examined us closely as to our Port of Departure and Destination, and our answers not pleasing (tho' very direct) we were ordered to heave our Salis aback, and the Captain with an impudent fellow of an American came on Board, the American demanded our Register, and after examining it and asking many questions discharged us, this man was well acquainted with our Port and in fact every other on the Continent, I am here informed he is a Philadelphian and that one third of the Men on Board the Privateer are Americans: I much fear we are to be plagued by [3] them this Voyage and hope we may find only detention by them, tho' the Vessels that arrive here have been spoken by British or french, and most of them put to considerable trouble⁷⁷; No doubt you have before this heard that the British got a Drubbing at Martinico which to be sure puts the Frenchmen here in great Spirits.⁷⁸

I have made every enquiry after West-Indian Markets but cannot learn any very great, tho' there is Vessels immediately from there, but hand [had] no Accot^s. better or worse than

⁷⁷American shippers were beginning to experience a great deal of difficulty in carrying on seagoing trade. As the European war spread the need for commodities increased and this led to more seizures by both French and English privateers. See Cox Coart to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Gustaves, Island of St. Bartholomew, September 14, 1793, page 306, below.

⁷⁸The French triumph was not repeated in Europe. See Ezekiel Cossa to John Gray Blount, immediately following.



HOME OF JOHN GRAY BLOUNT
WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

This house appears small in relation to the number of people who resided there. Mention is also made of the entertainment of prominent guests who spent the night. Blount did contemplate building a home in keeping with his wealth and social station, but the opportune time never came. There were doubtless outside buildings, such as a kitchen, store-room and possibly additional sleeping quarters. Blount was a large slaveholder.

[those, sic] we had before I left you, but the general [market is, sic] much better than this. You have inclosed the prices Current of this place, you will readily discover they are not in want of any thing.

I am

Sir Your obt. Ser^t.

COX COART

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John Gray & Thomas Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Post

Ezekiel Cossa to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL August 3^d. 1793

Sir. I wrote the 8th. July and Enformed you of our arrivl the 4th. also of the Russels Loading for City Point who Saild this Morning with a find wind at East, we Shall be Detained a Week Longer. by Reason of No water in the Canals being Neap Tides, we have 40 tons Salt on board and the Vesel Will be Nearly full with your goods and what M^r Gillchrest [Gilchrist] Ships

the Failer of the Bank and the Bankrupts has made more Long facces and Down Cast Eyes in this place than I Ever saw all together Even Encluding Burgouirs [Burgoyne's] army. when taken however they Were Releved a Little yesterday by the arrivl of 32 Sail of Westindeans and News of Valencinnes and Meyence being takeen by the Combined armys. great Rejoicing, but no mony No Confidence No trust not the Lenght of a mans arm

I shall be with you as soon as posible

your^s. S^t

EZEKIEL COSSA

Addressed: M^r John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

N^o. Carolina

*Manuscript is illegible.

[*William Blount to John Gray Blount*]

PHILADELPHIA August 14th 1793

This you will readily discover has been pened by our Friend Williamson* who will *certainly* attend at the proposed Meeting⁷⁹ and you laying by all other Business *must* do the Same—I advise the Publishing of it in due Time in the New Bern & Edenton Gazettes—I have forwarded Mess^{rs}. Polks a Copy with a Request to publish it in the Halifax and Fayette Gazettes and shall take Care to have it published at Knoxville and use my Influence to send forward a Number of the Grantees from that quarter particularly David Allison if I can spare him.—The Object is too great to be neglected or delayed

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE, August 14th. 1793

Dear Sir

I have sent Cap^t. Wise with the Beaver to bring you and Family Down, I have my[self] been Oblige^d. to Go to New Bern and have Just Return^d. Capt J.Easton is with Wise and I am much want^d. at home. and I think they will do as well as my Self coming. I Should have come or Sent before now but have been away. I wish you to have a good Set of Stone ballast put in for fear M^{rs}. Blount will be fraid. I want a 1000 feet of Plank for Ware house flooring—I want for Mulletts this fall 150 Barrls to hold 29 Gallons[,] pine or Cypress; that is if they can be made for the price of a Bushell of Corn, I want them made by the tenth of next month. I Exspect to Get for the Seine for our part 50 Barrels [of fish], I find no hands and have the third, I have the best Crue [for the *Beaver*] that can be found in the State for her—Say A Gaskins Tho^s. Gaskills N. Pinkham my Brother David and they [will, sic] find as may more hands as is wanting

*No enclosure is attached to the letter.

⁷⁹An explanation of the meeting is given in Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, New York, November 10, 1793, page 331, below.

[2] Say four more. there is the Greates prospect of fish this Summer that has been for ten years⁸⁰

all well

yours

JOHN WALLACE

SHELL CASTLE

Aust 14th. 1793

N B. Come if you can. no nuse [news] or Vessels at this place.
J. W.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Washington

Cap^t. W. W. Wallace

Sloop Beaver

William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL Augst. 15th. 1793

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & T. Blount

Genⁿ.

I did myself the pleasure to write to you on the 31st. Ult^o. by the Brigg Russell copy of which I now inclose you, & hope to hear she has got safe to her destin'd Port.

The present will be deliverd to you by your Brigg Bell and inclos'd you will receive an Invoice [and] Bill of Lading for Goods ship'd in her amounting to £235.9.11 to your Debit you have inclosed Sales of your Consignment by the said Vessell neat [net] Proceeds to your Credit £317.9.2 and also the account of the Disbursm^{ts}. on her amount^g. to £92.18.5 to your Debit & take the opportunity to inclose your Account Current Balance in my Favor £41.16.9. It was fully my intention that more Goods should have been put on board the Bell notwithstanding the want of Sale of the Staves [2] but owing to an usual length of dry Weather the Iron Works in Yorkshire have stop'd, by which means there has not been a possibility of making some of your articles & others actually on the Road are detained for want of Water in the Canals, thus circumstanced I have debarrd complying with my wishes & I shall on the Sale

⁸⁰Fishing has always been important to the economy of the coastal area of North Carolina.

of the Staves fall in your Debt. I deem myself unfortunate in not having succeeded better in the Freight by the Bell the particulars of which I inclose & regret at being* [much, sic] deceived in the quantity of Tons expected from Mess^{rs}. [Gil]christ & Barry, but it was in vain waiting longer and I beg leave to assure you every exertion has been used for your interest. The immense flow of your produce from every part of America in consequence of the Continental War has perfectly fill'd this Market but as the approaching season of the year will prevent any imports from the Baltic I think it must advance particularly as there is no prospect of a termination of the present Hostilities. I subjoin the present prices Current at this Market & renew my assurances that it will afford me much satisfaction to be further instrumental in serving you here being with much esteem & Respect

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. J. G. & T. Blount

Washington

Noth. Carolina

America

P the Sally

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN August 16th. 1793

Dr Sir.

I have had your papers done some time but no favourable Opportunity offering have not sent them, untill now. We have been busey with the Election for some time, and William Blackledge⁸¹ can give you a better account of it then I can by writing therefore you must apply to him,—

I have purchased since the 20th of May last for the Tan yard; about £120. worth of Bark, Hides, Skins &c. and have not sold £5. worth from it. and I owe for them Articles some where about forty pounds.

I asshure you that I have been as bare of Money as a Man could be, and have been Obliged to borrow small Sums to keep

* Manuscript is torn.

⁸¹William Blackledge was a younger brother of Richard Blackledge. He continued the long time friendship of the Blount and Blackledge families. Later letters show his faithfulness in keeping John Gray informed about political affairs at the national capital and suggest that he performed similar services as those given in earlier years by Hugh Williamson and Abishai Thomas.

going untill you can give me some, which hope will be soon,—I shall Ship by Captain Stephen Tinker who will Sail to Philadelphia in about two Weeks about two Hundred Dollars worth, & except a very small Sum out of it I must put the ballance to the payment of the first Note for my House which has been due 12 Months the first of this Month and is for 250 Dollars. as the Widow has been very pressing for her Money. [2] I could Ship more leather now but dont like to put too much in One Vessell and mean to Ship about the same Quantity by M^r. Manning some time the last of September. I have a sufficiency of Bark for the Season and could you send Hides I am confident we might make Money the Next Season if no leather could be Sold here by Shipping it to the Northward. I flatter myself you will by the first Opertunity send me some Money if only fifty pounds to keep the Butchers easy from whom I get hides, and if I had where with I could get from three to five hides a day at 4^d. Plb. out of the Market as Money is as scarce with the other Yard nearly as ours.—

I am sorry to here that your County Men made so bad a figure in the Election as I was in hopes Craven was the only *very* disputed Election, but I find to the Contrary. we had some little Scratch^s. & the like, but no such wounds as you heard I shall scarcely have a Scar & that is a wonder from the Wounds and place. We are all well & sorry to hear your Family has been so ill.

I am Dear Sir Your Ob^t. Hum^l. Serv^t.

ABNER NEALE

John G. Blount Esquire
[No address.]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 20th Aug^t 1793

Dear Sir

You had been informed that D^r Romaine was interested with me in some small Adventures to N Carolian for which Reason I had wished the Tobacco to be shipped to him and had taken for granted that he had rec^d. the Tobacco and that there was a Balance in my Favour for which Reason I had not till the last Fall asked him for the Acco^t. Sales. The imperfect Acco^t he

rendered induced me to write you as formerly. Your's of 20th July saying this 18 Hhds had been shipped to Buchanan & Robb did really surprise me, however I wrote them, of which the following is a Copy.

"Gentlemen

Mess^{rs} Jn^o G. & Tho^s Blount the 21 July 1786 shipped to your Address by Capt. Hammond some Tobacco say 18 Hhds or more. I have an Acco^t to settle in New York respecting tobacco of which that was Part and the Acco^t Sales are wanted An Answer from Washington can hardly be expected in less than 4 or 5 Weeks else I would write for it to Mess^{rs} Blount, be so good therefore as inclose me in the Course of this Week if convenient the Acco^t Sales of that Tobacco and you will oblige &c

H W 5th Aug^t. - 93"

Their Answer is to Hand as follows

"BALTIMORE 15th Aug; 1793

Sir

"Your Letter of 5th Inst we received and would have been duly answered had not the writer been in the Country.

"In the Tobacco Transaction aluded to there must be some mistake that we do not understand but can assure you that we never rec^d one Hhd of Tobacco from either Mess^{rs} Blount or any other Person in Carolina since our Establishment in Baltimore and if any has been sent it must have gone into some other Hands We remain

respectfully Sir Yrs &.

signed

J BUCHANAN & W^m. ROBB"

You have probably heard that D^r Romaine has some months ago sent off his Wife for London where her Unkle[,] Aunt[,] Sister and all her near Relations live, he is soon to follow in Person to settle in London, this is the Reason I have been so desirous of an immediate Settlement. You will readily discover that I have not expedited [2] the Business by my Application to Mess^{rs}. Buchanan & Robb, I am therefore to receive the necessary Accounts from yourself.

W^m Blount I suppose will send you an Account or Description I lately wrote of the Southern Territory to explain a Map which

I think will be finished in 4 Weeks, it is also to be published in Careys Geography. My Description of the Country with some *transient* Remarks on the Navigation of the Mississippi had not been printed six Days before a Vessel built near Pittsburg that had descended the Ohio & been necessarily made a Spanish Bottom was captured by a French privateer & sent in here, two or three others also from N Orleans all loaded with American Property are captured, this is like to make a predigious Clamour and will probably produce a Crisis rather sooner than I had expected.

I am D^r Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington, N. C.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 23^d. Aug^t. 1793

Dear Sir,

I have rec^d. your Letter P M^r Schenck & the Dollars that accompanied it which came very opportunely to hand, for they were applied for in less than an hour for the first time—Davie⁸² is now in South Carolina & I shall have no opportunity of seeing him before he goes to New Bern Superior Court where I conclude it is probable you will see him yourself—he told me he would certainly be there—what his opinion may be of the propriety of returning you under the circumstances you have mentioned is doubtful; but I think he will tell you that the Election as you may be established & I am very desirous that you should be returned in order that a Writ for another member may be immediately issued—delay in that Case will be highly dangerous & the more so as the Western Members will meet prepared to make a hard push for a Convention. which without great [2] exertions & a full representation from the East cannot I fear be prevented.⁸³ I have rec^d. intelligence from Virginia by M^r. Newton

⁸²William R. Davie of Halifax, noted lawyer and political leader, who often served the Blounts in a legal capacity. For mention of Davie see Letters for 1790, page 151*n*. 216, above.

⁸³Thomas Blount was exceedingly partisan in his state politics. He belonged to the powerful East faction (Roanoke, Tar, and Neuse area), which dominated North Carolina politics in this period. He probably refers to the disputed election described in Letters for 1790, page 146*n*. 210, above.

that Coopers' ship has gone down from Suffolk to Norfolk completely rigged & judging from that he will soon take his departure from the Continent, I feel it my duty to make all possible haste to see him & therefore shall start for Norfolk on Saturday or Monday next in pursuit of him—perhaps I may take Edenton & Washington in my way back—we are all well, for a wonder when there is so much sickness about, & very sorry to hear that your family are not in the same situation—Willie [Blount] is yet at Shark Springs & very little or nothing better than when he left here—No News from W. Blount later than you have re^d. Yours &^c.

Compt^s. from all.)

)

to all.)

THO. BLOUNT

[No address.]

George Ogg⁸⁴ to John Gray Blount

AUGUSTA the 24th. Aug^t. 1793.

D^r. Sir

The object of this letter is to inform you that there is a pine barren fever⁸⁵ raging in this Country with great Violence which wase Communicated by Robert Morris & a M^r. FitzSimons of of Philadelphia. what this means or where it will terminate I Know not I However belive the European War is the Real Cause, as there will be much need for Naval Stores by the time they are done fighting at Sea,—I shall be infinitely obliged to you to inform me by the first post what quantity Can be had if One Hundred thousand Acres Could be got I would pay you a Visit—I Shall also thankfull to you to let me know the expence attending the location & How I am to proceed

Those adventurers who have gone from [2] from this place have Actually Sold 400,000 [acres of land] at one Shilling St^s. be this as it may I think the probability is that a man Can't well lose much if Sixpence Could be got—

⁸⁴See sketch of Ogg in Letters for 1791-1792, page 207n. 58, above.

⁸⁵He thought that there was a great land speculation wave beginning, which would include North Carolina which had large areas of pine lands. The Blounts and Ogg soon became possessed of this "fever."

I Wrote you Some days past respecting Smiths Lands which you Sold him & Shall be glad to hear, that he has it in his power to avail himself of the indulgence given by the law—I am

D^r. Sir

Sincerely yours

GEO. OGG

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount

Merchant

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Post

Blake Baker⁸⁶ to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Aug^t. 26th. 1793

Dear Sir

Defeated in two Elections I determine on the third the more resolutely, because I cannot reconcile to my feelings the idea of being totally conquered by the party that opposes me which I am well convinced was the same in both attempts tho on both occasions, under the Specious appearance of friendship—I allude to a townsman of my own. You must know then that Haywood⁸⁷ will readily accept Judge Spencer's seat & I suppose the Assembly will as readily confer it on him I have therefore determined thus early to stand for the Attorney General's place, not that my practice actually needs Such aid, but because I will not be entirely vanquished & my election will also open to me a much wider field for improvement

Now Sir, as you know Success in every attempt of this kind is only to be ensured from an early & constant exertion I have begun & shall continue to do every thing within the bounds of

⁸⁶Blake Baker was a member of the house of commons in 1791 and was solicitor general of the State in December of that year (Legislative Papers, Senate, 1791-1792). He was elected attorney general and served in that capacity from 1794 to 1803. He was appointed to the judgeship of the superior court for one year (1808), and was reappointed in 1818, the year of his death. Comments concerning Baker must be taken cautiously. Either there is confusion in statements of the place of his residence or there were two Blake Bakers who were contemporaries. The letters in this collection are addressed from Tarborough and Connor lists him as from Edgecombe County, where Tarborough is located. *North Carolina Manual* (1913), 444. According to Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 440 and Lizzie Wilson Montgomery, *Sketches of Old Warrenton, North Carolina; Traditions and Reminiscences of the Town and People Who Made It*, 399, he was a resident of Warren County.

⁸⁷Judge John Haywood of Halifax was elected a judge of the superior court in 1794. He had previously served as attorney general. He is not to be confused with John Haywood of Edgecombe, the state treasurer. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 200.

delicacy & propriety in general, which will be the most likely [2] to forward my election, and I hope, as I consider your election incontrovertible from the circumstances which have been related to me, that you will assist me all that you conveniently can, particularly with the Hyde & Carteret [Counties] Members with whom except Jesper I have no acquaintance

I have & shall soon finish Letters to all my acquaintances who are elected which I am the more anxious to accomplish as soon as possible, as M^r [Willie, sic] Jones wrote to [Abram, sic] Hodge near three Weeks past desiring to know tho Secretly whether M^r Haywood would accept or not the Judge's place—If you think it necessary I will write to Hyde & Carteret, after I am furnished with the Members names, because they were against me formerly I consult you as a friend & expect that any advice that you may think necessary in the business will be given me as a friend, with which confidence I remain with respects to M^{rs}. Blount

Dear Sir

Yours with respect

BL BAKER

Jn^o. G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount

EDENTON Sep^r. 4th 1793

Dear Sir

Inclosed you have a post Note for 278 38/100 dollars, there is a ballance due you of 184 which I Made use of in Philadelphia which I will forward to you by the first Opportunity at which time will send you Stewarts & Bars Acc^{ts} of Sales, it came to hand last week you'l observe it is payable to me so I have put my name on the Back, On Sunday last Nancy [Mrs. Jacob Blount] was delivered of a Girl & is to day as well as can be expected, of that you can Judge[.] Doct^r Brewsters has not complied with the terms of Sale of the house & lots in hertford & has gone to the Northward & I am told does not mean to Return, I have now three persons applying to purchase, & think I shall be able to get a much better price than before, but Cant make sale of it unless

I had the deeds or the Numbers of the lots for I dont Know how they lay Nor cant see any person that does Know, Youl therefore send me the Numbers & whether they are in the New place or in the Old, for it seems in the adding of a piece of Ground to the Town that the N^o. of the Old part was Altered

I am as Usual

JACOB BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount
Merch^t.
Washington

James Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 12 September 1793

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Friend

Yesterday I Rec^d. a letter from Brown Canick & C^o. of Glasgow Inclosing a Protest for Non acceptance of John Simpsons Bill in favour of J G L Schenck on his friend Fife who is a Bankrupt

The Regular protest will Come to hand after the Bill Comes to Maturity I thought it my duty to give you this Notice as soon as possible I fear this may Injure J S & Perhaps our friend J G L Schienkk—this Citey is most Dreadfully Scourged with the yellow Feaver, Nerves Feaver, Intermitting or what is Called the Fall Fever A Greate Number have fell Victims to the one or the other[.] a Greate Number is moved oute into the Cuntrey I fear it as yet Spreads although it is Said the Simptons are not so Vilent[.] I am in Greate hopes the Cool Wether may Check the Disorder[.] our Citey & the Cuntry Round are filled with the unhappy French people from the West Indies What will Become of many of them in the approaching Winter God onley Knows[.] the Publick are sending 2 Ships Loaded with them to Bordeaux at the expense of our City there is But Little Doubt But these unhappy Straingers Brought the Scourge on this place[.] M^r. J Stuart with his & my two Children is oute of Town aboute 30 Miles Distant God Grant the may escape the Contagion Our Ship is arrived from Jamaco Being turned of [off] without her

Fright [freight] or any Dommages allowed,⁸⁸ Eastwoods two Briggs are in there & no prospect of Getting away on the 10 of August, I hope you & family are well I am with Respect yours,

J BARR

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

Post

Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount

GUSTAVES, ISLAND OF ST. BARTHOLOMEWS

Sep. 14th 1793.

Sir

I arrived at this place on the 9th Instant, after a tedious passage of Thirty seven days from the Capes of Virginia, on my passage I certainly experienced all the affliction that Mortal Man was ever troubled with, the first attack was a pain in my Jaws, which completely closed them in such manner that I never had Bread nor Animal food in my Mouth for twenty odd days; immediately on my recovery was met with the Melancholy News of only one quart of Water for twenty four Hours, such was our situation only seven days; however no other injury to the Vessel and Cargo except the loss of some of our Stock and the wear of the Riggins and Sails which is more injured than if we had, had Gales of wind the whole passage, we have this as a consolation that no Vessel has made a Voyage that Sailed about the Mouth [month] of July in less time and 50 days has been the most general: Cap^t. Houston who Sailed over Ocacock with us, only reached this, two days before us. much [2] Much to my surprise I find this Market glutted with every Species of Provisions, nor can I hear of any one place that is not in a similar situation; I expect to remain at this a few days in expectation of seeing some Vessels from Windward that are expected every hour, during my stay I expect to retail a few articles probably to a good account, if I can command silver, but this Cursed Country have

⁸⁸This was the *Friendship* taken by the English on a return voyage from Nantes. See Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, July 20, 1793, page 289, above.

nothing but light Joes [about \$8.81 or 36^s. 2½^d.] and if they are received must be vested in produce or exchanged at a considerable loss. At Saint Eustatius and Saint Martins there is no hopes of a Sale, for there's a report prevailing that some Ships are fitting at Martinico and Guardaloupe for the purpose of taking possession of them Islands, the consequence is a general stagnation of business. Sept. 15th.

I have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Gay at this Island who has promised me every assistance in his power, and has recommended to me the Leeward Islands, unless the Arrival of those expected Vessels brings accounts of good Markets to Windward, and in fact should that be the Case, I fear the Cruising Vessels of the English Islands who have conducted [3] conducted towards the American Vessels with cruel treatment by ordering them into their Ports and compelling them to sell or probably on suspicion of having French property on board and after an expensive examination & several days detention are acquitted, the consequence that follows, the Vessel must sacrafise a part or all her Cargo to get clear of the Port. The opinion of the People here is, that America will not brook such insults, indeed the American here are of a similar opinion, the Governor and in fact the whole Island are in the greatest friendship with the Americans, and indulge them in the Offices with uncommon neglects, when the English are treated much more strict.

Mr. Gay informs me there was an American Vessel, off St. Eustatius chased in Port by an English Vessel, and that the Captain of the Privateer followed him in, and went on board with a drawn Sword, and after waving it over the Captains Head with much abuse ordered him under way for St. Kitts [or St. Christophers], to this he refused, and applyed to the Governor for his protection, who gave him as a consolation, that it was out of his power to protect him against [4] against an English Vessel, the poor Wretch was obliged to follow the Tyrant to St. Christophers, where he was examined and discharged; to repeat the frequent insults and the Captures of American Vessels would swell this Scrawl to a very large bulk.—I have determined to try Statia [St. Eustatius] and in my way I shall touch at Saint Martins and try the prospect of a Cargo of Salt tho' the Accounts at this place of the price of Sale much alarms me, and I am also told by Mr. Armstead (who is at this place) that the Salt is un-

commonly dirty, occasioned by a deluge of water some time since down the Pond, he says that it is very full of sand and black, in consequence of which he determines, to touch at Turks-Isles⁸⁹ for his, however I shall be better able to judge when I see it, which cannot detain me more than one day—The Hurricane was very violent in many Islands this Year particularly St. Kits, St. Thomas's, St. Croix and St. Martins, to Windward very light compared to those Leeward Ports, forty sail were drove on Shore at Thomas's but not much injured twenty or thirty at St. Croix not damaged, but those of St. Kitts considerably injured; No Americans at St. Martins and [5] and consequently no great damage: All those blows have injured no Houses therefore no vent for Lumber in this quarter. I have this day sold our Deck Load and received produce in payment in order that I may not be compelled to throw it over in Case of a blow amongst the Islands. From the prospect of things at present I cannot expect to bring Salt, you may therefore calculate on some produce and Cash for the Balance; I have no hopes of selling or freighting the Acct; I shall be obliged if I sell at St. Eustatius to receive light Joes or produce, and they will be cost half a dollar to have them exchanged, this will be better than their produce for the whole Cargo. I leave this place this day or early tomorrow Morning and shall recollect your observation with respect to dispatch, but you will discover already that we must have a long Cruize and a very unprofitable one but be sure the strictest oconomy shall be observed, to make the Voyage as good as [6] as possible. Inclosed you have the Prices Current at this place—

Corn	7/6	Flow	4½ S. F.
Pork	15 Dlls		[super fine]
Tobacco	4 D°	Bacon	1/.
Herring	3 D°	Pease	1 Dll
Mullets	3 D°	Beans	1 D°.
Shads	2 D°	Tar	2 D°.
Butter	1/.	Pitch	2.
Lard	9 ^d	Turpentine	2
Rice	3 Dlls	Rosin	2

⁸⁹Turk's Island was an English possession and one of the most popular salt markets of the West Indies. An act of Parliament in the spring of 1788 allowed American vessels to load salt there, which privilege was continued in spite of restrictions on other forms of trade. *Statutes at Large*, XXXVI, 333-37 (24 Geo. III, fifth session, c. 6).

Bees Wax	3/.	130/	
Tallow	10 ^d	R[ed]. O[ak]. H[ea]ding] D ^o	
Mould Candles	1/6	80/	
Bullocks	5 to 6 Joes	Undrawn	64/
Sheep	3 to 4 Dlls	W. O. P. [white oak pipe	
Hogs	6 ^d . 1b	staves] D ^o	160/.
Turkies	1 Doll	P. P. Boards & Scant-	
Geese	3/4 D ^o	ling	14 Dlls
Ducks Doz	5 D ^o	18 in Cypress Shingles	2 D ^o
Fowls	4 D ^o .	22 D ^o	3 D ^o .
English Rum	4/.	24 D ^o	3 D ^o .
French	4/.	Coffee	1/.
Sugar English	8 to 9 Dlls	Cotton	22 ^d to 2/.
French	7 to 8 D ^o .	Ginsa none in Casks	
		French Brandy	1 Dll
Spirits retaild at ¼ Dll		Salt none here —	
bottle		Report says none at S ^t .	
W[hite]. O[ak]. H[ea]ding]		Martins	
Staves & Heading 120/ to			

[7] to be purchased under 8 bitts⁹⁰ P barrel, should this prove to be the Case I shall bring no Salt from there or elsewhere unless on much better terms.—M^{rs}. Blount will discover by the annexed prices what a fortunate adventurer she proves, however some Hours shall be devoted to the choosing of the set of China, and flatter myself that the goodness of its quality accompanied with much Beauty will fully compensate for the uncommon badness of the Sales of the Lard. —Please present my most respectful Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & family

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

COX COART

Addressed: Messrs. John Gray & Thomas Blount
 Merchants
 Washington
 North Carolina
 Cap Loring, via Philadelphia

⁹⁰A small piece of money (in the United States 12½ cents).

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Sept. 14th 1793

Sir, by Puquit [Puckett, sic] I R^d. advice from you, not Sell Rice for less then three Dollars, which I Shall not do. your letter I Sent by Joe Blount from Philadelphia also West Bill of loading, if your Brother [Thomas] have come to your place Give my Respects to him, also let him know thar was no tea in the Bill of loading—his Goods I Send up by R[euben]. Wallace in his lighter—a Barrel of Rice to M^c. Daniel by his Request the money he will Send by Rus^l. for fear of want—fish to morrow Sets in[.] Adom Gaskins Thomas Gaskins Nat^l Pinkham my Brother D. Wallace. and as many more hands as they want to ketch mullets, one third of them is ours. I have Sent to Pascotank and Got 150 Bus^{ls}. of Salt now at the Castle—the Barrel I have told them will come hear at half a Dollar. let me know by Reuben the price that they may buy wethout fear—it is thout hear [thought here] that wee Shall take 150 Barr^l. the lighter is to Bring as many as Reuben will take in—no body for the Staves of Staves of Stewart and Barrs, [2] No Word of Smith[,] Cossa[,] or Cox[Coart], or any Body Else. our Salt at Pascotank Cost us about 5/hard. Salt is not to be had this way. therefore I Sell now Only to thouse who fish in the Seine which are to have three parts. the next nuse you hear from me I hope you will hear wee hav fish

The Wreck of the Brig wee have not Burnt. but Shall and Save all the Iron wee can. the Anchors wee have—the Spears [spars, sic] I think will Anser Thompson brig whitch I have all compleat but her Lower mast. the Comboose is neat [net] Cost 50 Dollars. the Binecle [binnacle] neat—the Skins I Ship^d. to New York by miner

your most

ob^t. JOHN WALLACE

SHELL CASTLE

Sept. 14th. 1793Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount

St. EUSTATIUS September 16th 1793.

Sir

I reached this last Night and in my way I touched at Saint Martins, and found agreeable to information Salt was eight bitts P barrel. I have determined to sell at this place, but cannot command Cash for my Cargo as I expected when I wrote you from St. Bartholomews of yesterday, but I expect at least half, in fact more. My Pork & Tobacco will sell tolerable, but not near what I expected to have commanded for it.—

Prices I expect to sell at

Pork at 15 Dollars)

Tobacco 5½ D°.) Payable in Rum & Cash

Pease & Beans 1 D°.) half each.

The balance of my Cargo I must retail and to a much less price than I was limited to sell at St. Bartholomews, the common price of Herring 3 Dollrs & my Butter & Lard only worth about 2 bitts & Bacon 1½ bitts [2] and this I must retail to Hucksters. My Rum will be Antequa [Antigua] and at 4/. Gallon. I am here so short a time that I cannot give you the prices Current. You will have it in your power to make choice of the Cash or Rum, the loss in the Cash half a Dollar in each Joe

Your Most

Ob Serv

COX COART

I shall not touch a barrel of Salt C. C.

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John Gray & Tho. Blount

Merchants

Washington

N°. Carolina

Via New York

*William Blount to John Gray Blount
with a Copy of a Letter from William Blount to Joseph Martin*⁹¹

RICHMOND September 18 1793

Dear Sir

I delayed from Week to Week to answer your letter having in Contemplation the Setting out for Philadelphia and to pass by your house as I preferred the Pleasure of speaking with you personally—How I was disappointed your Neighbour at whose House I was so hospitably entertained I presume has informed you and I hope he has also informed you that the high water prevented me from going to your House in preference to his or any other—The Deed for the land respecting which you [2] wrote me was by you delivered or forwarded to the late Governor Caswell and I believe it now remains in the Hands of his Executors.—The Parties to it are as well Known to you as to myself and I have not had any Opportunity of Knowing whether any of them would wish to sell or not.—For myself I should be glad very glad to obtain Cost & Interest for my part—From this Place I write John Gray Blount & desire him to procure and forward to you the original Deed or a Copy and to inform you whether he will sell or not and I can entertain no doubt but he and all others concerned would be glad to sell out provided the Purchaser [3] will take the Title better for worse without a written or implied Guarrantee—you may expect to hear from J. G. Blount by Post during your Session which will I am informed continue for the Month of October & November. I am dear Sir with sincere esteem

Your ob^t. Servant

General Jo. Martin

W. B.

at

Richmond

William Blount to John Gray Blount

RICHMOND Sep^t. 18th 1793

Heretofore there has been a difficulty to procure a Map of the Territory South of Ohio—

⁹¹Joseph Martin earlier lived in North Carolina. In 1785 he was chosen an Indian Commissioner for the Southern Department and while there became a member of Blount's "Bent" (of the Tennessee River) land company. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 63n. 38, 111, 176, 194-195, 412.

I have already informed you the [that Matthew] Carey of Philadelphia had published one of which Sundies Copies would be sent to you to sell for Carey's Benefit at a dollar—These will satisfy those who subscribed and from whom you recived the Mony.—

The Materials for this Map you know how they were collected and that they were put together by our Friend H. W. [Hugh Williamson] and he put it into Careys Hands to publish for the sole Benefit of Carey.—Before I left Knoxville not knowing how H. W. was going on with his Map I encouraged Col. Tatham to make a Map of the [2] Territory South of Ohio which he has completed to great Perfection he has also annexed to it a Map of Kentuckie part of Virginia and the Cherokee and Chickasaw Country and part of the Creeks & Chactaws which will shortly be published for his Benefit I suppose at Baltimore—This Map cannot be offorded at less than three dollars and some of them will be sent to you for sale—I did not inform H. W. that Col. Tatham was making a Map nor have I informed Tatham that H. W's was published—I thought this Information necessary to you

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^r.
Washington
N^o. Carolina

[4]

RICHMOND Sep^t. 19th 1793

M^r. J. G. Blount

By the foregoing Copy of a letter to General Martin who is a Member of the Virginia Assembly you will be in formed that he will expect from you by Post in the Course of the approaching Session a Copy of the Deed for the Bent of Tennessee and your answer whether you will sell or not & the Terms—In Transcribing the Deed you may direct that my Name as I am now an official Man be omitted as it were by Mistake—

With the Copy you had as good write him a friendly letter for he is a much greater Man in the Virginia than he was in the Car^a. Assembly

[No address.]

W^m. BLOUNT

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND Sep^t. 19th 1793

I have not yet heard the Fate of the Suit commenced by me in the Name of Col. John Sheppard in Wilmington Court but from the silence observed on the Occasion I take it for certain that it is lost at my Cost and that it is presumed I shall know it soon enough.—

This however gives me no uneasiness but that is not the Case in the Suit in Wilmington Court commenced ag^t. M^{rs}. Grainger the Particulars of which you know in which Alfred Moore is her Attorney and to whom I have paid a handsome Fee in Guineas, five or ten I foget which—If in this Suit a Recovery is had ag^t. M^{rs}. Grainger contrary to my Expectation in common law, Chancery must be resorted to—I beg your Attention both to the suit and to M^{rs}. Grainger that she does not write or verbally acknowledge or say what may be improper on the Occasion—Pray write M^r. Moore & know the State of [2] the Suit and if necessary give him more Guineas—It is an important Suit for whatever is saved to M^{rs}. Grainger is saved to me.—Billy Hill has written me several letters respecting the Bargain by him & myself made about the land and as well as I recollect respecting the Recording of the Deed from Harvey & his Wife to me to which I have given no answer but it is best for you to say you are sure I have answered but my letters must have miscarried if not by him recived & offer some Proofs in your own Case in our Correspondence—The Reason I have not answered is because I supposed by his Writing to me he only wanted an Excuse for not paying punctually as I suppose he has not done and the whole Business of Titles Recording &c is as well as understood by you as by Myself & better than I can here recollect on the [3] Subject—I wish he would recant the Bargain I will repay him his Mony with Interest in six Months if not before

You will re[c]ord the Titles or not and otherwise act in the Business as you judge proper

Judge Sitgreaves I am told is removed to Halifax from whom I never hear respecting Ogdens Affairs—I rely that you keep an eye to them in all Cases or perhaps some undue advantages may be taken that may involve disagreeable Consequences.

If Judge Sitgreaves has left the Books at New Bern I would advise that he should tranfer the Powers that he himself has &

the Books to you—It will be troublesome but it will be most safe & I know not who at New Bern can be trusted in such Cases and I would advise its being done as soon as you have an Opportunity of seeing the Judge

It [is true, *sic*] you or myself ought to hold those Books & no body else.—

Permit me here to suggest for I have not Time for regular Arrangements of Things would not this as Vessels have risen in Value be a good Time to sell out some of [4] yours and to vest the Proceeds in some more certain Trade equally profitable.

Molsey will spend the Winter in Carolina I depend on you to provide for her Houshold and to give her your advice in all Cases

Horses She has too many for the Winter and I think some had best be sold if on Credit provided good Notes are obtained in Payment.

I rejoice much that She is off the Frontiers and a respectable Distance from the *Jacobin* Part of the Cherokee & Creek Nation—I return to the western Country not with such Orders as I could wish, the President himself has not latitude enough—May the approaching Congress be gullatined⁹² if they do not declare war [against the Indians] in form & proceed to the most vigorous Execution—Pray write me often via Manchester Care of Nicholson & Taylor who are truly civil & clever in whatever respects me if its only to say what the Health of my family is for except from you I shall have not other Chance of hearing and you can readily conceive my Anxiety on that Head at this sickly Season & this uncommonly sickly year—My letters by Skinner I hope will reach you before this does—

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

Tuesday 2^oClock [n.d.]

Mary⁹³ is yet alive contrary to the expectation of us all & a change that has taken place this Morning affords us some hope

⁹²It is interesting to note that the word guillotine is used casually in North Carolina at this time although it was introduced in France only in 1789.

⁹³Mary Blount was the second daughter of William Blount. She and her sister, Nancy, remained in North Carolina when the family moved to the Tennessee area. Their aunt (Mrs. Ann Blount Harvey) had the care of them. The aunt and the two girls lived at Tarborough with Thomas Blount, who at that time was a widower.

that she will recover—Nancy & Billy Orr are the only well persons in the family—My Sister is fatigued almost to death & complains heavily but Keeps up—I dread the consequences to her. Mr. Hall, B. Williams & myself are all in bed Shivering with Agues or burning with fevers & in a similar Situation are this day most of the Inhabitants of the Town. I think of sending an Express to morrow or next day to Willie [Blount] who is still at the Shotko Springs to let him Know that William has gone forward to Knoxville. Molsey [Mrs. William Blount] is here & tells me that Cooper is not able to undertake the Journey. perhaps it is to [the] best for I am not now able to write him so fully as I wish in answer to his long Letter & I suppose it will suit you better to write a while hence too. If there is any fruit to be had & an opportunity offers we shall thank you to Send us some.

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Capt. Woodman

Benjamin Smith to John Gray Blount

SEA CASTLE Sept^r. 24th. 1793

Dear Sir

I find by the return of the Surveyor, that there is not land enough in Brunswick County to satisfy the locations made by me in the Entry Office for many *very many* thousand Acres, and that there will not be much, if any, worth taking to satisfy yours. Indeed if my Opinion would not be an intrusion, I should recommend, unless you have very powerful inducements not to take one foot but I neither expect or wish you to be guided in this by me, without your own conviction after the fullest investigation.

My motive for writing, is to enquire your wishes respecting the Entries made by Mess^{rs}. Blackledge & Porterfield⁹⁴ in this County and to acquaint you that I feel inclined to conform myself to them as far as I can with propriety, supposing they will not be individually disadvantageous—agreeable to the reasonable

⁹⁴There seems to have been interlocking land companies formed by George Ogg, Richard Blackledge, James and John Porterfield, J. Rhodes, and John Gray Blount and others.

wishes of the Inhabitants of Brunswick, & beneficial to the State—all of which can be easily & greatly combined—The more I become acquainted with the relative situation of the watercourses in our County, the more I am convinced that Publick Good may be advanced by the same means that will immensely reward the Industry and Enterprize of a few active and substantial Persons—Should the above Contents be agreeable I expect an immediate Answer by Post to Wilmington & will thank you to inform me the best method you know, of my procuring about 1500 bushels of Corn—In the mean time believe me Dr. Sir

very much your most obd^t.

BENJ^a. SMITH

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^{re}.
Washington
Beaufort County

Cox Coart to John Gray & Thomas Blount

S^t. EUSTATIUS Sep 27th. 1793.

Sir

I have after much difficulty made a Sale of the Anns Cargo, and a worse need ever be made, however I have acted for the interest of the Vessel and Cargo, but that [there] is such confusion in the Islands that no person has a disposition to purchase a Cargo, the consequence is, you must retail and of course the detention great. My Sales are as follows Pork 15 Dolls in Rum at ½ Doll. Tobacco 6 Dlls dutch Weight, Herring 3 Dolls, Butter 1/6 Lard 1/. Pease all damaged with the bug not ½ Doll. Beans 1¼ Dolls. Bacon at cost say 1/. Rice 3 Dolls., 10m boards & Scantling 14 Dolls 3m a 16 Dlls. Staves 6m Staves 16 Dlls. I get Cash for the Cargo except the Pork that is Joes them I must exchange at the loss of half a Dollar in each Joe, add to all these Curses, I find besides the loss between the Weights of our Country and this, that nearly half the Lard is leaked out on the passage, owing to the Heat of the Vessel in our long Voyage, there is considerable loss on the Butter, in fact I am really ashamed to [2] to mentioned the situation for it is intolerably bad compared to the prospect I had before I left Home, but I have a consolation that it is the best Sales

made in any of the adjacent Neutral Ports; the Merchants are turned Soldiers and mount Guard every Night, of course no inclination for business in the day, they are in fear of an invasion of the Island but I see no reason they have to fear any thing for the French have no Fleets or Armies in their Islands, nor news of their coming.—

I would hand you the prices Current but there is no such thing here, nor do I expect there will untill a peace is effected, nor can I say any thing is in demand here, except W. O. H. [white oak hogshead] Staves which will answer well if a proportion of Heading, then they [3] they would command four Joes; There is persons at this place from St. Kitts who wish to purchase and those prices could now be had but perhaps the prices will be down in ten days, but should that happen they must rise again for that article is not brought to this place, owing the great quantity of Vessels employed from the Northward in the flour business* [suc]h quantity might be computed to a* [great, sic] Number, insomuch*——— that four will not command* [specie, sic] there is by computation at least 20.000 barrels in this Island, and near that quantity in St. Bartholomew

I expect to Sail by the 4th next Month and hope to reach Home as soon as this does.—

I am Sir

Your Ob. Ser^t.

COX COART

Addresses: Mess^{rs}. John Gray & Thomas Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Via New Bern

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. Octo. 1, 1793

Sir,

I thought I had told you the Situation of W. Blount's suit at Hillsb^o. long ago, but as you say I did not[,] Ill do it now.—

*The manuscript is illegible here.

the Court took an Adversaria on a motion made just at the Close of the term for removal to the federal Court. the removal was not expected the adversaria was therefore wished—At this term if the removal is denied Commissions will be moved for to take Depositions in Georgia & some how or other it must be managed to be Kept off till we get another Judge to sit with McKoy⁹⁵—neither of the others especially W.⁹⁶ must be trusted in any Case where a Blount is concerned & particularly W. B. [William Blount] Col. [William R.] Davie tells me he shall go to [2] Hillsb°. Court certainly & that he may possibly want me there on that Business. I shall be obliged to go if I am able the 7 or 8th of Octo. on University Business. Willie who waits at Alstons for directions to proceed wants Money to pay his expences there which will amount by the time he can leave there to about 26 or 27 Dollars—more money than I have. If you can supply him please send it up by Jack who will find Cooper here waiting to receive your Letters to W. B. you [your] Letter P. [per] Garner is to hand & the Contents are pleasing. if Justice is done with the purchase of the goods they will come to us 35 to 40 P Cent cheaper than they were manufactured. Mr. Dobson who left Liverpool about the time Smith wrote & arrived at Norfolk while I was there told [3] me that Goods were sold for ready Money at the Manufactories throughout the Kingdom at that rate & that no man could purchase on Credit for an hour—I fear we have been cheated by one Merchant. Salt Sells here 5/. Virg^a. Money P Bush^l. & is a Cash Article. send up a Load of the first that arrives & announce the whole quantity I expect I can sell at that price wholesale up the Country—a great Article. I write in bed too unwell to get up. Vessels from Phila. Should be compelled to ride quarantine. the Gov^r. Should order that they do so in all ports of the State.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Washington

By Jack

⁹⁵Judge Spruce Macay of Rowan County, whose acquaintances often spelled his name "McCoy." Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 192, 382, 407; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 384.

⁹⁶Probably John Williams of Granville who had been judge before Macay. The other might have been Judge Samuel Spencer.

*William Pennock⁹⁷ to John Gray Blount*NORFOLK Oct^r. 6th. 1793

Mr. John G. Blount

Dear Sir

I wrote you a few days past informing the Russel has Arriv'd & this day yours of 30th. Ulto came to hand. Freights to Europe have been high[.] the last was 52/6 St^s. P Hhd[.] Flour there is none offering & it is too soon for Wheat[.] If you wish the Brig^t. Charterd it is a Pity you had not given the Necessary Orders as my Opinion is Freights will be lower & your [brig, sic] I think is rather too small for Tob^o, as the James River Hhd are verry large It is probable a Freight of Lumber might be got to the West Indies Morrison's Brig^t. took 15 dols P^r. Thousand for Staves for two Ports but the same might be got for one[.] Purchasers are very rare the Fever for Vessels having Subsidies [subsided] [.] Suffolk Tar has been selling all the summer at 10/ think your friend had better take the Market as the Storage &c will eat it up From different [2] causes there has been & now is a great Scarcety of Mony which has dampd Trade & I see little prospect of its being better[.] the Fever in Philad^a. & the Bank ruptcies in Europe has opperated forcebly on us

I am with esteem

Your ob^t Ser^tW^m PENNOCK

S. F Flour	36/	Coffee 10-	12 ^d
Fine	34/	Molasses 2/6	2/8
Wheat5/. 5/6 for 60 ^{lb}		Tar	10/-
Corn	17/	Turpentine	10/-
Sugar 48/. 63/		Tob ^o	16/ - 22/-

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

N^o Carolina

⁹⁷William Pennock was a member of the firm, Pennock, Nicolson & Skipwith of Richmond, Virginia.

*Dominick Terry & Co. to John Gray Blount*CADIZ 8th. October 1793John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Sir

We have to advise that by an Express arrived here from Gibraltar, information is received of a Truce having been concluded between the Algerines and the Portugues for twelve months, by means of the English Consul M^r. Logie, —A Fleet of the formers Consisting of three Frigates a Brig and two Shebeques passed the Streights to the Westward on the night of the 5th. inst., no doubt to Cruise against your Vessels, for whose safety we are much alarmed, Ourselves expecting several of them soon—this advise is just Confirmed to us by our friends in Gibraltar, who add that a Peace with them Pirates will now be difficult to make, which exposes a great Number of American Citizens to perpetual Slavery, and Humanity Shudders for their fate,—We are very Respectfully

Sir

Your Mst. Ob^t. Hbl. Serv^{ts}

DOM. TERRY & COMP.

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

N^t. Carolina

p Brig two sisters

Capⁿ. Sheffield

*Richard Kay to John Gray Blount*HALIFAX Octo^r. 12th 1793D^r. Sir,

I have a Letter from Liverpool informing that a few Goods would be shipped for me in your Brig to Washington—have to request you will open my Letters containing Invoices, enter and secure the Duties on the same, and by the first Boat forward to M^r. John Hudson, Tarborough; who will pay your Order for the Amount of Freight and other Charges—[you] may rely on

the Duties being paid on becoming due Please excuse the
 Trouble I give you—and believe 'twould give me Pleasure to
 have an Opportunity of rendering you a Service—

I am respectfully—

Your mo. ob. Serv^t.

RICHARD KAY

Addressed: Paid

John Gray Blount esq^r.

Washington

William Rhodes, Jr., to John Gray Blount

PROVIDENCE Oct^o. 15th. 1793

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Sir

I arrive here in 9 days after leaveing Washington, I have
 been very sick indeed ever since I left your Town, This is the
 first attempt I have made, to write or even to do any kind of
 exercise whatever since my arrival in Providence.

I have not yet procured your Barley, but will do, it im-
 mediately—as I have now got able to walk out & attend a Little
 to my business—

I shall sail in company with my Father, for Washington in
 15. or 20 days with a Yankee Cargo, (as usual)

Inclosed you will find a price current, as allso a few news
 papers.—

Give my Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & Miss L. [Lucy]
 Harvey, M^r. & M^{rs}. [Augustus, sic] Harvey, &c. for news &c.
 I must refer you to M. Easton as he will be able to give you [2]
 a more general account of the different reports &c. than I pos-
 sibly can—

I am dear Sir

Yours most Obedient Humble Servant

W^m. RHODES JUN^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Washington

N. C.

p Easton

Daniel Carthy⁹⁸ to John Gray Blount

[NEW BERN, October 19, 1793]

Dear Sir,

On my arrival here [New Bern], I found no money a head, and it a mater so hard to Collect, that it has been impossible for me to raise the sum required to retire the bond—but by Tuesday or Wednesday Next, I Shall forward it. the inconvenience you have Suffered distresses me. respecting Shell Castle, I wish to State Some points to you on the Subject of the purchase, to which I wish your Answer.— therefore you need not [2] Write to me on the Matter, untill you receive a letter from me—which you will, when I forward the money to take up the bond.

I with respect
y^r most Obedient Servant

DAN. CARTHY

New bern 19th Oct^r. 1793

In the mean time I could wish to have a Sketch of the number of acres and different Spots of land that you hold—Such an one as Jack Wallace promised me—indeed I must have that before, I can say any thing. the Sketch I took at the Bar, I left behind me in Philadelphia—D. C.

John Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

favored p)

M^r. Simpson)*William Blount to John Gray Blount*KNOXVILLE October 22^d. 1793

Dear Sir, Wm. Blount

I wrote you on my way to this Place from Richmond by Post and informed you of the Death of M^r. Ogden⁹⁹—I also informed

⁹⁸Daniel Carthy was a merchant of New Bern (affidavit on deed of sale of property to Samuel Chapman, Legislative Papers, 1791-1792). He was earlier an agent of the Royal Flint Company of New York to purchase state tobacco in North Carolina (*State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 556-557, 559). At the time of the writing of this letter he was considering the purchase of Shell Castle, probably as the agent of some northern concern.

⁹⁹Titus Ogden, who formerly lived at New Bern, where he and his brother, Thomas were merchants. Titus became a sort of ward of William Blount's in 1788 (William Blount to John Gray Blount, New Bern, February 8, 1788, in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 370-372). He followed William Blount to the Tennessee area, where he died.

you that he had made a Will before his departure from North Carolina which would be found among my Papers to which Myself and Matthew Duncan are the Executors which letter I presume you must have received—Upon arriving here I find Mr. Ogden died of an Inflammation of the Stomach and retained his senses through the greater Part of his Sickness and at Intervals to the last Moments and finding his Death certain which he did for several days, he remarked to General Smith, M^c.Cabe, M^c.Kee others around him and desired the General to put in Writing that the Will to which Myself & Matthew Duncan were the Executors was his only, true and last Will—But that before or after he signed it and which he could not remember, he was at John Grier's one evening very drunk and that he was by him and others[,] perhaps Jo. Green[,] induced to sign some Instrument whether a Will or what he could not remember but if it was a will it was not his Will and be it what it would he was very drunk and knew not what he did adding that by God it was an Instrument he had ever been afraid of for that he was very drunk and he supposed signed whatever he was requested or advised [2] General Smith accordingly drew up an Instrument of Writing declaratory as before stated which he signed and sealed in presence of Witnesses as I have been informed for I have not seen it—The General returned to Cumberland without informing me where he put [it] but it is no doubt among the Papers in the Office and they are numerous.—

If it was a Will that Green induced him to sign and that of a later date than the one in my Possession this Instrument of Writing will set it aside.

But my Suspicion is that the Writing he signed at Green's was a Deed of Gift for the large House &c to his son for you Know M^{rs}. Green was a Kind of foster Mother to him or perhaps it might be some Instrument of Writing acknowledging the Justness of some debt due to Col. Cogdell's estate to which John Green was the Executor and there was a law Suit defending on that Head and as well as I remember Cogdell's Claim needed Support or it might be an Obligation to Jo. Green for as well as I recollect he had some old Claim respecting Salt—

Time will show what it was and all my Suspicions are mentioned the better to enable you to guard against it be it what it will—It would seem as if M^r. Green had not acted a friendly Part.

You understand all Things respecting Mr. Ogden's affairs &c &c as well as I do and must feel an equal Interest in a happy close of them therefore I need only say do in all Things as you judge for the best—As to his Situation in this Country you Know he was only a nominal Merchant though he appeared to be a Man of much Business and [3] had he have lived to the 15th November he would daily have received handsome Sums of Mony from his Debtors the late Soldiers who are now daily paying off [being paid off] by David Allison, I believe to the amt. of 10'000 dollars—The Percentage here is 100 Virginia Mony upon Pennslyva and the Price of Transportation only 4 dollars per 100 lb from Richmond—Enough in all Conscience.—The Barron now has the Care of the Store he Kept and which was called by his Name—During my Absence you no doubt heard the Government was in Confusion that is a part of the People committed outrages against the best disposed Part of the Cherokee Nation and the Temper of the People feeling the restraining hand of Governmt was very high But before my Return by Order of General Smith General Seveir (to wit on the 9th Instant) crossed the Tennessee into the Nation in Pursuit of the large Party that killed Caveate & Family on the 25th Sep^t. with six hundred mounted Infantry since when he has not here been heard of which gives Reason to believe he has at least not met a Party able to repulse him—This Measure was to be sure not warranted by the General Government and the Consequences must pay on the authors of it but sure I am it will have a happy effect in quieting the Minds of the People of this Country—My Return perhaps more properly my delay to return was well judged and the many faults found with the easy administration of the secretary (the best of Men) has [4] served to highten my Character.—I left and returned to the Government in my Opinion in good Time My Popularity has ebbed and flowed several Times and I beleve it is now as high as ever it was—General Wayne it appears by a Kentuckee Paper would March on the 15th Instant from fort Jefferson ag^t. the Northern Tribes—His army I have reason to beleve consists of 3000 effective Infantry and he had called for 1500 mounted Infantry from Kentuckee whose pay is 3/4th of a dollar per day yet there is reason to fear he will not obtain near that Number owing to General Logan considering himself neglected and his putting his face against the Business

What ought to be the fate of such Men? If Wayne does not obtain a complete Victory which is much to be feared the Spring will open with an Indian War from Florida to Canada the Chickasaws & Chactaws excepted

You will ask but what is your Situation at Knoxville, Not quite as safe as I would wish yet we have not such Fears—we are getting several Blockhouses built under the Direction of M. Richard [Rickard, sic] and I shall in a few days have the whole of the Company of Regulars here under his Com^d. as the Cap^t. will be arrested and sent to Gen. Wayne for Trial, Breakage &c[.] David Alison will meet you at Fayette on the third Monday of Decm^r. with your Carriage which I left at Abingdon and the Horses are here fattening, Present me affectionately to Polly[,] the Major[,] and other Friends equally near and believe me your affectionate Brother

W^m. BLOUNT

I have heard by Sampson Williams that Willie is on his way and have for several days looked for his arrival
[No address]

*John Smith to John Gray Blount
with Postscript by William Williams*

PETERSBURG Oct^r. 31^s. 1793

Mr. J. G. Blount

Sir/

Yours by Mr. Williams I Receiv^d. the 30th of this Instant, which Left me at Liberty to charter your Brig Russell Which I now have Charge of—I refer you to the agreement herewith for the particulars being the best I Could do for the owners of Said Brig—I Shall be obliged to purchase Some Staves at Norfolk for the purpose of Dunnaging [dunnaging] the Brig and Shall If I have not Cash Enough in hand be oblig^d. to draw on you for the Ballance as Mr. Douglass informs me he will furnish me With what Staves I may want free of Commission at the price going—but I dont think it advisable to take any more than will Stow the Cargo with Safty—Hh^d Staves are at 24 Dllrs at City point and bb^l. [staves, sic] in proportion—I am Sorry to Inform you the Brig has no Crew, the peoples Voyage bing

[being] up as She does not come to your Place, which place they were Bound to Come too, by agreement, in Short they were all Sick and the Devil in them from the amazing Wages that I am inform[ed] is giving [being given] in the river [2] Therefore Shall be oblige^d to hire Negroes as other people does, at the point [City Point] for the purpose of Loading and Conducting the Brig to Norfolk, Where I think if its Possible to Send me Some American Sailors, as no English men will do for any port in Europe, I have wrote to M^r. George Nicolson this day and inform^d him it would Suit me Better to be Supplied in Norfolk as the Brig will be about to proceed there in 4 or 5 Days agreeable to Charter party [lease] Which I Shall have made out in full, from the memorandum you have, The Brig work Between Decks very much, She will require I think one (new pump) if not two, their is not Salt Provisions to be had here at any rate, therefore Shall do nothing in purchasing pork or other Stores until I here from you which I Shall Expect as soon as I arrive at norfolk, together with my instructions in full[.] Sir you will please observe there is no primage mentioned for the Cap^t. I Shall lay in no adventure, Consequently I leave it all together to you what I Shall have for the Performance of this most Intolerable voyage, Except the Wages—if I have been remiss in any thing please inform me pointedly, you had best be very particular who you Direct your Letters too, as I have not found your Orriginal one yet—I am Sir

Your most Ob^t. Ser^t. — John Smith

[3]

N. B. I am inform^d. wages at norfolk is from 16 to 18 Dllrs, but rest assured I Shall git them a [as] Cheap as possible, Ned Ryan as [has] a wish to Come home &c

J S.

Note. Cap^t. Smith was very certain the Brig w^d. carry 180 Hh^{ds}. & some what expected she w^d. carry 200—M^r. Douglas would have Put in Staves but w^d. pay no freight for what it took to dunnage the Vessel & not the Usual freight for What she w^d. carry over that Quantity—therefore Cap^t. Smith thought it was attending More Pointedly to your Orders to take them for

your Acc^t.—I received five hundred dollars from M^r. Douglas
on Acc^t. of freight Money. who Cap^t. Smith Bro^t. freight for

W. [WILLIAM] WILLIAMS

November 5th 1793

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount
Washington

William & James Douglas to John Smith

Copy

PETERSBURG 31. October 1793

Sir,

In consequence of the conversation We had respecting the
Charter of the Brigantine you command, the Russel, We are
induced to make you this offer viz^t.

We will load your Vessel with a Compleat Cargo of To-
bacco for Liverpool at fifty Shillings British Sterling P Hh^d. in
Lieu of freight, primage & every other charge, the freight to be
paid in Ten days after delivering of the Cargo—fifty or Sixty
Hh^{ds}. to be put on Board at City Point & the Remainder at
Norfolk

To have forty Working days to load and unload in, excluding
Sundays, Holydays & days of bad Weather, to Commence from
Wednesday next & to Cease Immediately on the Tobacco from
this being on Board, or We order the Vessel to proceed Without
it, & not to recommence untill the Vessel arrives at Norfolk &
is Ready again to receive the Cargo—The Tobacco to be deliv-
ered along side, & to be delivered from along side of the Ship at
the port of delivery, to be Sufficient in the Hull &c.—and
dunned to our Satisfaction—Demurage at fifty Shillings Brit-
ish Sterling P^r. day, and under the Penalty of five hundred
pounds to be paid by the party failing to Comply—

[2] If you agree to these terms, Signify the Same at foot,
Which shall be interchanged & binding on both, untill the
Charter Party is extended

We are Sir

your Mo. Hble Serv

WILLIAM & JAMES DOUGLAS

Capt. John Smith)
of the Brig^t. Russel)

I have perussed the above proposals respecting the Charter of the Brig^t. Russell and being Authorized by the Owner of said Vessel to freight her, I agree to the forgoing propositions which shall be Considered binding on both untill the Charter Party is extended & executed

Petersburg 31. Octo. 93 —

Copy

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 6th Nov. 1793

Dear Sir,

Mr. Williams returned from Petersburg the day before yesterday & herewith you will receive the Letters & Money brought by him—By the former you will see that Smith has taken a freight of Tob^o. to Liverpool @ 50/. P hh^d. to be del^d. on board, part at City Point the rest at Norfolk; where he told Mr. Williams he expected to be about Sunday next I shall find him there as I go on to Congress & if you can prepare your Letters, Instructions & c in time & send them to me, I can carry them on & deliver them with my own hand Smith thinks the Russel will carry 200 hh^{ds}. at the least & so think all others that have seen her—if so, the freight will please you & whether it does or not, it is the best that could be had—you may if necessary detain Jake a day but I would not willingly have him detained longer except in case of great necessity because he has [2] with him the Horses that are to carry me to Norfolk & I shall certainly set out on Thursday next the 14th Inst.—from the 500 Dollars rec^d. by W. W. [William Williams] from W. & James Douglas I have taken £9.17.1 V [Virginia] Currency to pay taxes & some other small Debts which I could not otherwise raise Money for, £4.9.1 V. C^y. [Virginia Currency] for W. W.'s expences; & a Counterfiet half Joe to be ret^d. at Norfolk to one of the Partners who lives there worth by weight 36/—making in the whole £16.2.2 which deducted from £150. leaves £133.17.10 of which Sum £60 is paper Money £32 of it rec^d.

of the Douglass's at 10/6 p £28 of B. Baker who accommodated me some time ago with Silver for it temporarily @ 10/—How these deductions will suit your circumstances I cannot say; but I can with truth say they were unavoidable & ought for my case to have been larger for I have been compell'd to break in upon my Congress fund which ought by all means to have been kept intire until the hour of starting—The daughters of William Blount are enter'd to Roselle [3] the Dancing Master who comes out about the Middle of Dec^r. to dance 6 Weeks at a Dollar P Day each—Will you be able & willing at that time to spare 80 or 90 Dollars. to pay M^r. Roselle? I ask the question that in case you will not be in a condition to advance for them, I may provide for the payment in some other way—If you can advance the sum required you may immediately draw on me at Phil^a. if there for the amount. If not I must try to get some of the Merchants of this place to do so—but it would be vastly more agree-to me that you should do it if you can. Billy Orr comes down to remain with you & is bare of Cloathes but if you will Send up some Linen my Sister will make him some Shirts & send them down—other Cloathes can be made for him there on as good terms as here I wish you [4] to remember that with good looking after he will be a good Boy & I am very desirous for his Mother's sake that he should prove so—a good Lesson at the beginning will probably save you much trouble & do him much Service—I have told W. Williams what he is to expect from us & when. He appears to be therewith perfectly contented—He will prepare this winter to build a Small Store House in the Spring & in the mean time collect our Small Debts here & attend to my private Business. Should you want any thing done here you may at any time Command & depend upon him—I wish you to send me 4 of Jacob's Axes when you send up my Coopers Tools—There is a Letter in this office from Cox Coart which I have been permitted to open but was not allowed to take out but the Letter you have rec^d. from him is of later date therefore the Contents cannot be very highly [5] interesting to you at this time. If Cox has ret^d. let me know what he has done. Send me the N^{os}. of your Lottery Tickets I shall be glad to hear from you often when I get to Phil^a. & through you to be informed of the Interests of the River. & the wishes of each of

my Constituents as live in the County of Beaufort—What have you said to or done with Carthy about the Castle? Remember me to all your family & believe me

as heretofore Yours

THO. BLOUNT

With the Money sent you will find a Bill of it

Addressed: M^r. John G Blount

Washington

William Orr

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 10th Nov^r. 1793

Dear Sir

Your's inclosing the Bill of Lading & your Account with D^r Romayne came to Hand ten days ago. The Doct^r. has your Account with the explanatory Observations on the same, he says that with the Assistance of the Mate of the Vessel who is in Town & of M^r Scharmerhorn the Merch^t. who bo^t. the naval Stores he will be able to solve the Difficulty or discover the Facts. The Doct^r. certainly will not be ready to sail for London before May next, most probably not so soon. Gov^r. Blount proposed that you and as many of the Land-Buyers as possible, of the Lands ceded to the Indians, should attend at Fayette Ville the 3rd Monday of Dec^r. in Order to press the Legislature for Indemnification or Possession of Property fairly bought & paid for¹⁰⁰. I have been detain'd here much longer than I expected by the Desire of getting some Papers out of Philad^a. Shall probably stay so long that I may find it expedient to proceed directly for Fayette Ville by Way of Halifax. Shall travel from this on Horseback and continue the same Plan unless I shall find myself much less capable of [2] of such Exercise than usual. However that may be you may count assuredly on my Attendance at

¹⁰⁰He probably refers to western lands, which lay in the territory reserved by the United States. The owners, failing to get redress from the Federal government, had turned to the State legislature.

Fayette Ville at the Time proposed viz 3rd Monday of Dec^r if alive and in any tolerable Degree of Health. I propose setting out from this within a Week from this Time.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

John G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N. C.

Abishai C. Thomas¹⁰¹ to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 18 Novem^r. 1793

D^r Sir

I received some time since your Letter of the 17th September, but being in exile on account of the contagious fever which lately raged here, I have not had it in my power to make the enquiries you request; this violent Fever according to Doctor Rush¹⁰² took place of all others, no doubt the pine barren among the rest, whether the latters will revive as the former has subsided is a question which I shall institute an enquiry upon as soon as I find that the people have returned and business again gets into Wain—Multitudes are flocking in from all quarters, and I am happy in having in in my power to inform you that I. have not heard of an instance of any person being taken with the disorder since eight or ten days past, and I believe it may be with truth [2] truth now asserted that the City is as healthy as usual at this season of the year, indeed I believe more so; for my own part I have had a severe trial though not much sick, the melancholy fate of M^r. Montford who died with me in the Country, gave me an alarm as well as a slight touch of the Fever, from which I have barely recovered as to flesh strength or spirits, however I trust it may operate to my benefit, and cure me of some portion of the dissipation to which I was but too much prone, take notice I have not turned preacher, but having had leisure to reflect seriously on my past life, I have

¹⁰¹Abishai C. Thomas was claim agent to the Federal government from North Carolina.

¹⁰²Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, probably the most noted physician in America at that time.

found room for amendment and I hope to embrace it—please give my best regards to M^{rs}. Blount &^c.

I expect to be at the assembly about Christmas, should have been in the State before this time; but was constrained to fly before my business was finished I [3] I have yet near a month's work to compleat it—The commissioners report is not yet divulg'd but I have indirect information that N^o. Carolina is a D^r [debtor, *sic*] & I fear it is but too true—what my masters will say to me I know not, nor I fear not, having the testimony of a good conscience yet it is a mortifying circumstance—pray are you one of the Legislators? if so I bespeak your vote, if you have none yourself please find me one, say M^r. Blackledge's, no I shall secure that by putting his business in tr(ain of) Congress before I leave this*

I am D^r. Sir

With sincere attachment

Y^r. mo. ob^t. Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

Josiah Adams & Company to John Gray & Thomas Blount

NEW YORK 22^d. Nov^r 1793

Mess^{rs}. John G. & Thos Blount
Gentlemen

By the Recommendation of our Mutual Friend M^r P Schermerhorn who handed us your esteemed order. We have executed it as near as possible[,] though several articles are different from your order they are as near as possible[.] To execute it exactly is impossible as neither Negro Cottons nor the sorts of Woollens you describe are to be had

We have sent Drabetts which no doubt will answer every purpose. Red Flannell is not to be had we have therefore sent scarlet Baize and indeed several articles are not done exactly to your orders but near as possible—

We are extreemly obliged to our Friend Schermerhorn for the Introduction of so desirable a Connection and hope the

*Manuscript is torn.

terms on which this is executed will secure us your Future Orders over [2] Which at all times will meet due attention by Gent

Y^r. M^o. Obed^t Serv^{ts}
JOSIAH ADAMS & Co

[No address]

Loomis & Tillinghart to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK Nov^r 26th 1793

Jn^o. G Blount Esq^r.

Dear Sir

Enclosed you have invoice and Bill Lading of two Boxes English Hats (they being of a quality suitable for your market—) which please to receive and dispose to the best advantage, for our account—should you find it most convenient, please to remit the N^t proceed, in the produce of your Country

We are Dear Sir

Your most Ob^t. Serv^s.

LOOMIS & TILLINGHART

N^o. 1. 18 Doz Cost 13/6 Sterling for Doz

3—15/33 Doz—D^o 15/9. D^o

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

Capt. Bradford

Brig^a. Bell

James Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 30th November 1793

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you for some time past they present is onley to Inform you that I am Still in the Land of Liveing & hope that you & all your fameley Enjoy the Same Blessing of Life M^r J. S. [James Stuart] with his & My

Children were all oute of the Citey During they whole of the Contagion they are all Since Retu^d in good health I am much Suppressed at the Conduct of Sundry Persons in your Diffrent Ports the have Been over *Cautious* in Makeing Vessells Ride Quarentine (*the Contagin* in this place was Greate & fatal to many a Valuable Citizen—

I was in towns through the whole [week] onley that I rode oute of Town every Week about 26 Miles Generally on Satter-day & Returned on Tuesday

It is an uncommon Fact that no person in they Cuntry took they Complaint from a Citizen that Died in they Cuntry It appears from that Circumstance that the fresh Air Despered the Contagion Dureing the worst of the Contagin we had 3* — Vessells arrived Viz Frindship[,] Mary Ann[,] & Br[ig] Jenny all of which wanted heaveing Down & Sundry [re]pairs which I Got Done two of which I Chartered [to] Adv*- [antage] *—— & Sailed & the other Sailed for your State Dureing the Worst [part of the] Contagion [2] I made use of every Precaution that I was master of[.] I Rode through the Citey for upwards of two Months on all occations & Never went one Errand that I Could make a porter do for me & Let no person near me that I Could Avoide[.] at Length I was obliged to Quit our house at Nights for more than 30 Days[,] Because I Could not Depend on the Servants[,] & Lodged with Capt. Gurling who had Neither Servants or Children aboute his house, the Square that we Live in Lost* upwards of 30 persons & the next Door to us above Lost 4 Persons the whole of the Distance that Lost the [40] Persons Does not exceed 300 yards[.] all narrow Streets where Persons Lived thick or in a Crouded Manner Lost more in proportion for their Number, the Loss is Estimated 4040 Souls about 20m fled they Citey & has & is now Returning I have the pleasure of telling you as a Greate a Degree of health now Reighns as ever was Known in this time of the year, But we have Lost our fall Sales & all most our fall Collections, which is Very Injurious to the Marcantile Intrest—I have Closed the Sales of your Indigo at 7/6 Per pound But will be some small time oute of they money, I wrote you of the sale of your Cotten, But you have not Said Whether you were pleased with it, we are not yet in Cash but will be in a short time—If you have a* spare [*sic*] Vessell or Can Get one to Car-

* Manuscript is torn.

rey they Bbl Staves fo[r] Cork we will give £4 10 Irrish freight Per thou[sand] or one half of the Proceeds, ship them [to] J & Isaac* ——— & write us as soon as Possible[.] By all accounts [both] Spain & Portugal Markets for American [3] Produce is Dull (No Sale for the produce of your State owing to Restrictions in Europe & the Contagion, Vessells in Greate abundance & freights falling—

If you have any Influence with the Whites [of Kinston] Pray exert it in our favour for we Shall be hard Run I do not wish to give you trouble on all occations We forwarded a Bill for Capt Camron Which will be eventually paid we have Given him liberty to Draw on us for the Mony there will be aboutte 550 Dollars in our hands but our Letter to him expresses the Sum If you can help him to a Purchase it will oblige Both Partys as we Cant Get a Bill for the Sum on your Collector J Simpsons Bill to J G L Schenck Comes oute protested & fife will only pay 6/ on the pound. I Shall be happy to hear from you & to have your a/c Please Give my Respects to your Wife & familey I am

With Greate Respect your Humble Sert

P S your Brother is Safe

J BARR

arrived here J Barr

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Mercht

Washington

North Carolina

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE December 3rd 1793

Dear Sir/

I arrived here last Evening too late to git my Business done, and found Doc^r. Leigh in the Chair of Commens,¹⁰³ who was opposed by Steele,¹⁰⁴ but Western pollicy kept him on the Floere—

Jacob is express on for Edenton he leaves his Horse at the Mill and one must be found for him to Mackeys & M^r Collins

* Manuscript is torn.

¹⁰³Dr. John Leigh of Edgecombe County. He was speaker of the house of commons.

¹⁰⁴John Steele of Salisbury.

will [send one, sic] for him to the Sheriff[.] he will return by Blount Hall & leave the Horse I Borrowed of Sharpe [Blount] & Come on here upon Harlequin for your Government. I am happy to learn the Ann is in Jamaica, rather that Cox Coart is yet in living[.] it appears she is Condemed as well some other Brigg from Washington[.] Jacob is well

I am Dear Sir

Yours &c

R^d. Blackledge

No Letters or Accounts here from W. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

p Boy Jacob)

Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount

[PONGO, Dec. 6, 1793]

I have allmost plankt the Vessel to the floor heads and have not Iron to last more then six or seaven days—Pallepres is hardley abel to work the Iron as fast as it is wanted I shall want Eighty weight of bind spikes from nine to ten intches long it will be best to have them maid thin if you should think so to[.] for if we should be evour [ever] so ti [ght] pusht it Cant be dun hear[.] the Caves [calves] air sick. this from your humbel s^t

HENRY TULEY

[No address]

John Kennedy, Junior, to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Dec^r. 20th 1793

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Sir

The Insult I received on yesterday evening from you, at the close of the Poll, demands immediate satisfaction¹⁰⁵—my friend the Bearer will await on you to appoint your time and place—

J. KENNEDY JUNIOR

¹⁰⁵See the account of an earlier altercation on page 259*n.*, above. Also see John Gray Blount's reply to Kennedy on December 25, 1793, page 341, below.

*James Cole Mountflorencia to Thomas Blount*SWITZERLAND the 23^d. Dec^r. 1793

Sir

This is a Duplicate of a letter of the same Date sent to you by the Way of Holland, requesting you after perusing it to transmit it to Gov^r. Blount—Prudence requires I should not sign my letters, least they should be intercepted—

On my arrival in france I was arrested, tho I had a passport from M^r. Jefferson and another from a french Consul; I was told that they considered me as a Suspected Person—16 days was I confined, & had I not been personally Known to M^r. [Gouverneur] Morris our Minister, it is probable I would be there Yet; for a M^r Griffith from Maryland was taken up near Paris about two Months ago, & M^r. Morris has not yet been able to have him released, tho' he makes applications 3 or 4 times a week for that purpose; what is most strange, is that they will not exhibit any particular Charge against him, but content themselves by saying that they have some Reasons to entertain Suspicions against him; without saying what those Reasons are—This is a much worse Inquisition than that of the Dominican fryars in Spain—There are upwards of one hundred American Sails at Berdeaux detained by an Embargo laid about Six months ago, which M^r. Morris has tried repeatedly in vain to have removed; the Masters of those Vessels have been compelled to discharge their Crew, not being able to support them; the Worst of it is, that when they will be permitted to set Sail, they will not be able to get any hands, as french Sailors are not allowed to ship themselves on board foreign Vessels—Thus do the french act towards those who supply them with Provisions—M^r. Morris is so tired with his Residence in france, that he wishes the President would appoint him to some other Embassy in Europe, but Honor prevents him from asking it, considering himself as a Sentinel on a forlorn hope—By the Rules established by the Convention, he can only communicate with the Minister of foreign affairs, & the french Ministers now are only the Chief Clerks of their respective Departments, enjoying no kind of Authority—true it is that they have made a new Constitution on the 24th. June last, which is ratified by all the Departments of the Republic, but it is only to be carried into Execution after the Close of the War, the Convention having de-

clared the Republic in a State of Revolution, and created a Committee of Safety revolutionary in each Village; these hundred thousand Committees have already thrown into Jail upwards of 15 hundred thousand Persons, & more are arrested daily—in this Number are comprehended all the Nobles, Men & Women, those of a noble Descent, all the former Priests, the rich Merchants & Bankers, the Members of the former parliaments; the Relations of all Persons emigrated, the foreigners of all the Nations at War with France, and Every one against whom they may conceive the slightest Suspicion—No Man in France can say that within an hour, he should not be arrested; Every piece of Information & accusation is listened to, & the Character of the Informer, be it ever so infamous, is not attended to—[2] Those innumerable Committees that have the power of arrestings cannot Release; a Committee of the Convention, towitt the Committee of general Safety can alone set at liberty; of Course those who are arrested, have but a bad chance of getting out soon—This Committee of general Safety receive daily 4 or 5 thousand Petitioners from some of the persons confined, and their Number is not sufficient even to peruse those Petitions—Besides those Committees so much dreaded by all Ranks of People & so obnoxious to individual Liberty, One or Two Members of the Convention are sent in each Department with illimited power; they may brake the Committees of Safety, create new one, arrest whomsoever they please, condemn & send to be executed; they may dispense with any of the Decrees of the Convention, enact any Ordinances of their own, displace every officer, punish them with Death, in a word Every thing is submitted to their Wil & pleasure. Such is the State of French Liberty—To add to the Misfortunes of that much distracted Country, an approaching famine is apprehended; Grain of all Kind is very scarce, and it is already difficult to procure Bread in Paris; it is generally believed that if the Capital should happen to be a few days without Bread, that the Mob will run to the several Persons, and Massacree all those confined, as they did in September 1792—Lyons that had revolted, has been subdued, 4000 of its richer Inhabitants have already been executed, & many more are to suffer the same fate—there is hardly a Day but what 5 or 6 heads are chopt off in Paris; the latest put to Death there, are the famous Countess Dubarry, the

Wife of the ex Minister Rolland, Vandenyver & his two Sons, rich bankers of Holland, who being Patriots fled to an asylum in france at the time of the Revolution of Holland; the Duke Du Chatelet Colonel of the french Guards, Several Deputies of the Convention &c &c &c In every Department the same Scenes are repeated, the officers of the Army are not more safe than any other, and often they are taken at the head of their troops to be conducted to a Jail, & from thence to a Scaffold—From such Description, you may easily judge how precarious is Liberty — even life in france—The Land-Speculation will probably keep me in Europe till next fall, in order to accomplish it effectually, which Circumstance induces me to request you, Sir, to befriend me with your Interest near M^r. Jefferson to procure me public Appointment in Paris, Such as Agent of the United States, Vice Consul, or some such other, even without a Salary, as it would put my Person in greater Security—I can even say that such an Appointment at this Juncture would be useful to the Citizens of the United States, who may happen to be in france, the Committee of general Safety having [3] reserved to themselves alone the Cognizance of all Arrestations, Detentions &c, the Ministers being without power, and no Redress of Grievance to be had, but through the Channel of the several Committees of the Convention with whom Ambassadors cannot communicate, agreeably to the Rule Established by the Convention itself; But on the Contrary an Agent or a Vice Consul could frequent all the Committees & public offices to attend to the Business of Individuals & would thereby be of great Service to his Countrymen—Every man of any property wishes to be out of the Country, and the Patriots have all their Eyes turned towards America; they speak of it in Raptures, and nothing but the Difficulty of getting property with Safety out of the Republic, retards my accomplishing some capital Sales—However you may be well assured that no Industry will be wanted on my part to find out means, & to accelerate our Speculation, but a public Appointment would render my operations much easier—It would be necessary for me to have that part of Carey's new Edition of Guthrie printed in Philadelphia which Contains the Geography of the United States with Doc^r. Williamson's Map, also the Acts of Congress of the fall Session 90 & 92—Would you be so kind, Sir, as to send them to me directed to M^r. Taney an American Merchant at Havre de Grace? I will make

use of every Opportunity to transmit to you, or to your Brothers
Every Information of Importance—

With very high Esteem, I have the Honor to be Sir

Addressed. Col^o Tho^s Blount

One of the Representatives of the
State of North-Carolina
In Congress
Philadelphia

[John Gray Blount] to John Kennedy, Junior

*[Copy]

FRIDAY MORNING D^r 25, 1793

M^r. John Kennedy Jr.

Sir

When you conduct yourself in such manner as shall entitle you to the notice you require I may answer your demand but the Justice I owe myself and connections at present forbids my attending a man whos late conduct has been more that of an assassin than of a Gent^t.

LETTERS FOR 1794

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH 4th Jan^y. 1794

M^r. John G Blount

Dear Sir my flatt is now loading with Naval Stores & peas and I hope will reach you by the midle of the week I also Expect [Amos] Johnsons flatt down every hour with Naval Stores & some Pork & Peas for you.

I should be happy that [you] could Provide me Vessels to take round to Norfolk¹ what Naval Stores they Bring down[,] which I expect will be about 300 bb^s.[,] besides what is already

* This is either a copy or an unmailed note.

¹North Carolina often sent goods to Norfolk for reshipment. This was because of the poor port facilities of the former and also because Virginia had built up a good reputation for some of its products. And goods sent in the name of Virginia were likely to bring better prices and find a readier market.

down[.] this I trust you will do on the best Terms you can and the first good Vessel that can be had and place the Epense to D^r Sir

Your Most ob^t H^m Serv^t
BEN ATKINSON

John G Blount Esqr
Merchant
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 11th Jan^y. 1794

Dear Sir,

Doctor John Hall,² the Gentleman who will deliver you this Letter, from long & extensive practice in Land Speculations in Georgia & elsewhere, & recent experimental Knowledge of the great advantages resulting therefrom, has deduced an opinion that an immense fortune may be made in a short time & without risk by taking up the vacant barren Lands of North Carolina; and for the purpose of engaging in the Business, comes forward with Cash sufficient to carry it on to the utmost Extent—and with an Intention to propose to you, as he has already done to me, That, in consideration of such information, advice & assistance as, being a Stranger, he must necessarily have from some Gentleman of Character resident in the State, without making any advance of Money, you may have one Eighth Share of all the profits—Which, I am convinced by Evidences he has shewn me of a Sale that he lately made in this City to Robert Morris & John Nicholson³ will be at the least 12,500 Dollars on every 100,000 Acres he can get—I therefore Suppose, Knowing that Land is your Hobby-Horse, that you will accede to his proposition; but have not promised that you will—I have only told him that if you should you can direct him where to go & how to proceed as well or perhaps better than almost any

²John Hall became associated with the Blounts in land speculation and his name occurs many times in these papers. His interest in land purchases seems to have been restricted to eastern North Carolina rather than in the Tennessee area as was true of many other speculators. See John Hall's Proposed Land Agreement in Papers, page 653, below.

³Morris and Nicolson were becoming involved in land speculation, particularly Morris, who became one of the greatest investors in American history. The Blounts attempted to supply much of the land to meet his needs.

other Man, [2] and that if you should not, you will Keep the object of his journey a secret from others & introduce him to some of your friends such as the Governor, the Secretary of State &c. &c.

All the Lands of this description in other States are already secured & most of them have been sold by the Enterers at an advanced price—therefore, as Doctor Hall understands the whole Business perfectly well & is known as a Dealer in the article to all the Buyers both here & in Europe, the proposed Speculation must be highly profitable if there can be Land enough found to employ the capital embarked in it:—and I also conceive that even in a political point of view it will be though[t] equally fair: because it is calculated to afford to the State, at present the *advantage* of Selling her worst Lands, which in reality have no value at all, for ready Money at the price of her best; and, in future, the *Benefit* of raising therefrom an annual Revenue, in proportion to the quantity sold, as long as Land may be consider'd by her an object of Taxation—These considerations would have induced me accede to the proposition which will be made to you, if I had not placed more reliance in matters of this Kind on your judgment than my own & had been differently situated; but in my present Situation I would not engage in any Speculation whatever for any prospect of gain that could present itself—

The Doctor [John Hall] is a genteel, respectable & polite man & my friend—therefore whether you [3] become a partner in his Business, or not I beg leave to recommend him to the favor of your friendly attention—Remember me to your family & believe me,

as heretofore,
Yours &c.
THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: M^r. John Gray Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

fav^d by)
Doct. Hall)

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 16th Jan^r. 1794

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 30th Ult^o. is received & has afforded me very great Satisfaction both of a political & private nature—indeed every thing it contains is satisfactory except what relates to poor Cox Coart & that is extremely distressing & the more so on account of the fate of my little friend Billy Williams⁴—I have not yet attempted to fulfil your instructions relative to Insurance on the Russel because I was not able to produce any Copy of our Instructions on the Subject to our Correspondent in England & because I have been both very sick & very busy—but I shall attend to the whole of it in due time—However I am not now so much alarmed because I know that the Algerians cannot now be in the Atlantic nor will not be there till the beginning of April—The Queen of Portugal granted a Crew to the American Vessels that were in her ports when the Truce was concluded & has declared her intention to protect all American Vessels bound to her Ports in future[,] on the 25th May 1793. England & Spain entered into a Convention which contains the following Stipulation—“That no Neutral Nation shall give any Protection either direct or indirect on the Sea or in the Ports of France to the Commerce of the French or to any thing that belongs to them—and the said contracting Parties[?]* [guaranteed, sic] — each other their Several Rights* ————— of the World ————— in conse-[quence, sic] ————— — [2] been intended to operate particularly against our Commerce if not to draw us into the War—However I am persuaded they are by this time sick of the bargain—The French are carrying every thing in their own way & perfectly agreeable to our wishes—It is certain that the Northern Army under Gen^l. [Comte Jean Baptiste] Jour-don has defeated the allied army under Gen^l. Clairfayt & Cobourg⁵ & driven them over the

⁴They were apprehensive for the safety of Cox Coart, who had been on a trading voyage to the West Indies in the fall of 1793 (see letters from Coart in 1793, above). William Williams was a protege of Thomas Blount. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, October 18, 1785, London, *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 226.

* The manuscript is marred.

⁵General Charles D. Clairfayt, or Clerfayt, was a noted Austrian field marshal. He had won a series of victories in 1793, but suffered a number of defeats subsequently. He was appointed field marshal and commander of the Imperial forces on the Rhine. Joseph Thomas, *Universal Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1915), 667-668. Cobourg was undoubtedly Josias, Duke of Coburg, who defeated Dumouriez at Neerwinden in March of 1793 and was himself defeated by the French at the battle of Fleurus, June 26, 1794. William Langer, compiler and editor, *An Encyclopedia of World History* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1940), 588-589.

Sambre⁶ and Accounts are rec^d. here by a Vessel from Amsterdam that the Republicans have taken Ostend & in it the Whole British army except the Duke of York & one other Officer who escaped by flight—which though not satisfactorily authenticated are believed because they are corroborated by other circumstances rec^d. through other Channels—In the moment of our greatest consternation produced by the information that the Algerines were turned loose on us Mr. Fitzsimmons⁷ brought forward a Resolution for the establishment of a Navy in these words—Resolved, That a naval force for the protection of the Commerce of the United States against the Algerine Corsairs ought to be provided—which was after several days warm Debate agreed to by a Small majority & with it the following—Resolved, That a special Committee be appointed to report what Naval force is necessary together with an estimate of the expense & the way* ———

[3] [ways, sic] and Means & the Expense, I have heard nothing about; but as I know that a majority of them are determined to have a fleet at all events, I have not doubt but that difficulty, however great, will be surmounted by them at least—My own opinion is against the measure because I am sure it can answer no Valuable purpose & is intended only to encrease our Debt for the advancement of private fortunes to which public Interest is Sacrificed on every occasion—Congress are at present engaged in the discussion of the Resolutions offer'd by Mr [James] Madison on the Subject of Commercial Regulations—which propos[e] to lay higher import Duties on certain Manufactures & higher Tonnage on the Vessels, of nations not in alliance with us—to reduce the Tonnage of Vessels belonging to nations in alliance with us and to impose on the Vessels of nations not [in] Commercial Treaty with us the same restr[ictions] with respect to the carrying Business, that [are] imposed by them on ours—and the Debate [has] been very warm & incessant for four Days—but no question is yet taken or will be taken in the course of this Week—how the matter will be determined is questionable—the House of Representatives appears to be very equally [divided] but my

⁶A French and Belgium river, a tributary of the Meuse.

⁷Thomas Fitzsimmons, a Federalist, was a delegate to Congress from Pennsylvania. He served in the First, Second, and Third Congresses (1789-1795) under the Constitution. He was defeated in 1794. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress*, 1163.

* The manuscript is marred.

Opinion is that the Resolutions will *[eventually be passed and, sic] ————— [4] That the Advocates for a Navy, what it is presented is designed solely for the protection of Commerce, are generally opposed to them—The Vessel employed by Government to carry the Presidents dispatches to France containing his request for the recall of Citizen Genet has returned; & it is believed that an answer is received from the national Convention declaring that his dispute with our Government shall not interrupt the Harmony which has so long & so happily Subsisted between the two Nations—and I hope it is true; for the situation of affairs at the time the request was made gave reason to apprehend that it would occasion a quarrel between the only two free Republics in the World which to me would have been a [tragedy, sic] affecting circumstance But the President has not yet made any Communication to Congress on the subject—It is also said that Genets⁸ conduct is disapproved & that he is recalled—but of that we are equally uncertain—The only Bill we have yet passed into a Law is a short one for altering the Flag of the United States on the 1st. Day May 1795 from 13 Stripes & Stars to 15⁹—which originated in the Senate—which very Homb¹. Body has also passed a Resolution for amending the Constitution* ————— [5] And upon the Subject of a further amend[ment of] the Constitution for disqualifying the Holders of ba[nk] Stock from holding a Seat in either House of Congress the votes were 12 for; & 13 against—Tomorrow another attempt is to be made to open the Doors of that House & I suppose it will terminate in the usual way¹⁰—for fear of tiring you I will here Close with a request that you will convey from this Letter as much information as you can to the people of the distri[ct] to whom on ac-

* The manuscript is marred.

⁸Edward Charles Genét was a somewhat rash young minister sent to the United States by the newly-established French Republic. He landed at Charleston and traveled northward. He got the impression from the southerners that the people of the United States were eager to support France. This led him to defy President Washington, who was adopting a policy of neutrality. Genét attempted to fit out privateering vessels on American soil to prey on British commerce. Washington asked for his recall and the French government removed him from office, but he was allowed to remain in America and thus probably escaped the guillotine.

⁹Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) had been made states.

¹⁰A rift between the southern agricultural and the northern commercial states was beginning to become marked. Further debate on Hamilton's reports increased the friction between these two economic sections.

count on indisposition I have not been nor am not able to write so generally as I wish & intend when I get better—Remember me to your family & all friends & believe me

Yours

as heretofore
THO. BLOUNT

Mr. John Blount

Enclosed Paper contains [Madison's] Speech on the* ———
Resolutions—but the *—————much better than

William Polk¹¹ to John Gray Blount

CHARLOTTE January 18th 1794.

Dear Sir,

Yesterday after having suffered more from travelling through weakness than I in my Life ever yet experienced, I arrived at this place, while your express handed me your Letter; my weakness does illly comport with bussiness, but I have attempted to dispatch the Boy as early as possibly.

Col^o. Stokely Donelson in February last informed me that he had Surveyed for John G Blount and Thomas Blount 100,000 Acres of Land located on the Three, forks of Duck River¹² and had placed the Surveys in your hands, & I have expected ever since, to have had the Plotts sent to me to be fixed to the Warrants and prepared for the Secretaries Office if this had been done, there would have been no necessity for your Express. The Warrants for the Locations on the Three Forks of Duck River amounting to 97,000 Acres I send you together with 30,000 Acres on Duck River amounting in the whole to 127,000 Acres; in the name of of Jn^o. G Blount & Tho^s. Blount—this I would not have done to any Man in N^o. Carolina but yourself without first having payment for that proportion of the Surveying Fees which is or would become due to me on these Warrants the amount of which will be £129.12.0 or a Note for such payment. Believing that you are disposed to do nothing but that which is just and right I have committed these Warrants to you and have charged you with the aforesaid sum which we will settle in a future day

* The manuscript is marred.

¹¹See a sketch of William Polk in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 494n. 120.

¹²The Duck River is an eastern tributary of the Tennessee River, which it enters at the present town of Denver, Tennessee. The Duck traverses a large portion of south-central Tennessee.

when you shall find it convenient so to do. I have [2] also sent you one Warrant of 1000 Acres in your own Name & one in the Name of Major Reading Blount for 5000 Acres—Little James Williams commonly called little j. w. was with me some time ago and said that a part of Maj^r. Blounts Tract or the whole I cannot recollect now was his property if on enquirey any part of it should be found to be his I shall beg it of you to let me know, that I may apply to the Maj^r. to obtain it in his hand for my use, as M^r. Williams is now Dead & his estate insolvent, and owes me by Note £27.

Should the United States think proper to refund to the holders of Lands, (which have been ceded to the Chikesaw and Cherokee Indians) the monies by them paid for the same into Armstrongs Office together with the Surveying Fees & Entry & Secretaries fees by them paid, then you will find yourself a gainer in paying the Surveying fees to me in the current money of the State—let this however be as it may I shall expect and do believe that you will make me payment. It matters not whether the Warrants be removed to the Eastern or Western District and Surveyed there, because their being originally directed to me I would obtain them untill the payment was secured, besides M^r. [Stockley] Donelson & M^r. Lewis¹³ and myself have entered into an agreement to claim the Fees on the Warrants directed to us whether Surveyed in our Districts or not, the latter M^r. Lewis's and mine is writing under our hands.

I have not yet got all my Lands Surveyed, (but if my claims would be better substantiated by grants than the what the Warr^{ts}. would be or the Entry Takers rec^{ts}. for the monies paid with the United States I could easily do it—I find it to be your Brother W^{ms}. oppinion it would—please give me as early as possible his reasons on that head.

I am much obliged to you for proposing to do any bussiness with the Secretary for me or with Gov^r. Blount—I dont know of any at present that I have [3] with either—M^r. Glasgow has some Grants of mine which I did expect by some of the Members, but I find that they have not been sent to me.

I have heard of Citizen Lenoirs¹⁴ resignation as a Military Man—I wish I could see it, I would have inserted in the Halifax

¹³Stockley Donelson was the son of John Donelson, the father-in-law of Andrew Jackson. Lewis has not been satisfactorily identified.

¹⁴General Lenoir was a very popular figure. Polk's comment about him was probably due to some personal dislike. For a sketch of Lenoir see Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, II, pages 219-221.

Journal as I am told it is well worth the Reading. Had he also [resigned from, *sic*] the Surveyors Office which he stole not long since from one of my Collectors because he was a *Federal Officer* I should have said that some sparks of the Gentleman rested within him, although even then I should have had serious doubts.

I have sent you every Warrant of yours or of any of your Family that is in my possession—I wish them safe to hand.

I am D^r. [Dear] Blount with very sincere regard your most
Obedient Serv^t.

WILL. POLK

John Gray Blount Esquire

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r.

[Enclosure—]

State North Carolina)

)

Mecklenburgh County)

All persons are hereby requested to pass the Bearer hereof, Joe a Negro Man the property of a Mr. John G Blount, from Charlotte to Salisbury from thence to Hillsborough, thence to Tarborough, thence to Washington in the County of Beaufort and State aforesaid Requested by Me this 21st. Day of January 1794¹⁵.

WILL: POLK

*William Blount to John Gray Blount
with a copy of letter from William Blount to John Smith*

KNOXVILLE January 21st. 1794

The inclosed letter from Mr. John Smith and my answer will inform you of the best Information that I have recived of your Kentuckey Lands¹⁶ and of the Instructions I have given him respecting of it—I am acquainted with Mr. John Smith, he has spent several days with me at this place, is of the Preston Brackenridge & Brown family or Connection the most rising one in the western Country and I believe in America a Man in every respect in my opinion proper to appoint your Attorney in the

¹⁵Slaves traveling without an official permit were likely to be apprehended.

¹⁶John Gray Blount had been a member of the Transylvania Company which laid claims to Kentucky lands. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, 10-11, 26-27, 409.

Business.—Let your Power to him be well written in a neat formal Manner as well as to give him the fullest Power as to the prosecution of your Claim and if you judge proper also to sell & convey after the Recovery or to sell out your Claim and have it proved before some Court or a Notary Public which will be equally good—Kentuckey is more full of Mony arising from the Circumstance of the Army North of Ohio¹⁷ than any other Part of America and perhaps land will sell for as good a Price at this day as at any Time [2] for seven years to come—The land was said to be worth from 1600 to 1700 dollars three years past by a Man (a Member of Assembly) who lived near it.—I am

Your ob^t. Serv^t.

WM. BLOUNT

[3]

KNOXVILLE January 20th 1794

Sir,

Your letter of the 10th Instant was yesterday handed me by Mr. Teale.—I return you my Thanks for your Inquiries and Information respecting the Claim of my Brother John Gray Blount to the lands in Kentuckey.—I am unable to account for the Miscarriage of yours and my letter to Mr. Breckenridge.—A Mr. William Bailey Smith¹⁸ commonly called Majer Smith or Colonel Smith who now I believe live at the Mouth of Green River was with my brother when he engraved the Initials of his name on a Tree or Trees and perhaps, made other Improvements but as to the other Improvements or whether he made any I am not certain—And this Mr. Smith put up in his Behalf his Claim of Preemption and was relied upon by my brother to take the Necessary Steps to the completing and obtaining his Title but I believe he never had even a written Power to transact the Business in his Behalf it was verbal only as I think and I am very certain he never had any Power to sell any part or Parcel of the land consequently if he has sold any of it such Sale cannot bind my Brother.—I shall inclose [to] my Brother in a few days a Copy of yours & this letter and recommend the appointing you in due Form of law his Attorney for the Purpose of securing his Title. In the Meantime I request you Sir as his Friend in the Business to take such Steps as you legally can

¹⁷The Indians became aware of the meaning of the surrender of their lands to the whites and undertook to drive the settlers out. This led to the expeditions of Josiah Harmon, St. Clair, and finally "Mad Anthony" Wayne against them. Wayne was in the area preparing for an all out attack on the Indians from 1792 until he won the decisive battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.

¹⁸See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, 1, pages 26, 409.

to prevent any Injury being done to his Claim. Upon [4] the Title being secured to my Brother it will be expected that you accept a Liberal reward for your Trouble and if it is not secured to him the Expense of the law shall be reimbursed on your giving Information to me of the amount—I am Sir with great Respect

Your ob^t. Servant

WM. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Smith
Frankfort
Kentucky

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILA. 23^d. Jan^y. 1794

Dear Sir/

A conditional Insurance on the Russel cannot be effected here; nor an absolute one (which I am inclined to think unnecessary) under 6 P. Cent[.] of course She stands upon the risk she sailed under—Six P Cent is also the premⁿ. asked on the freight which I have declined giving from a Belief that at this Season of the year the danger of Algerines to Vessels bound to England cannot be very great—I am glad that you have reason to think the Bill is paid; but extremely sorry that you have not heard of Cox [Coart] to lose both of our young men at the same time is too hard—The President has rec^d. in answer to his Letter to Gov^r. [Gouverneur] Morris of the 16th August, assurances from the National Convention of France [2] that the Conduct of Citizen Genet is unequivocally disapproved & that his recall Shall be expedited without delay—which happily dispel the fears we have entertained of being drawn into a War with our friend & Ally [France]—We have now no fear of War—for France will be victorious & Britain will by that time & for that reason be sick of fighting—However some of our wise Legislators dread War with Britain so much, that they are afraid to adopt Commercial Regulations lest they should bring it on them.

The Regulations are still under Debate & no question has been taken on them; but I calculate that they will pass by a

Majority of 2 or 3. The Committee on Frigates has reported the necessary force to be—4 Ships of 44 Guns & 2 Ships of 20 Guns. each To be built fitted & manned with 6 Mo^s. Provision & 3 M^{os}. pay for 600.000 Dollars which the President is to be authorized [3] to borrow—& cost annually 247.960 Dollars which are to be raised by an additional duty of—1 PC^t on Goods paying now 7½

5 P Cent. on all Stone Ware, Earthen Ware, marble, Slate & Bricks imported—3 Cents P Bush^l. on Salt

25 Cents P Ton on foreign Vessels

6 Cents P Ton on American Vessels in foreign Trade.

Whether the Report will be concur'd with will be determined in a few days—I think it will not—but fear it will—I wrote you very fully by last Post & will Write you again by the next—I am now much hurried—I have mended much & shall soon get fat—With best Respects to your family & all my friends—I am
as usual

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

free Tho. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Blake Baker to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Jan^y. 28th. 1794

Dear Sir:

I should be glad you would inform me by the very first opportunity if you can tell whether the Governor intends calling his Council to appoint a Judge & when, for I find from a conversation I had with M^r. Haywood¹⁹ the other day, as indeed I expected, that he is not very unwilling to receive the appointment, nay wishes it in my opinion & seems mortified that he should have been choused [cheated] of it by the conduct of those who pretended to be his friends [at] Fayette. And if any one is to be appointed, he had surely better be the man than any of those who will push for it & I think I can easily prevail on him

¹⁹His reference is to Judge John Haywood of Halifax. See sketch in Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VI, page 274.

to write to the Governor that he Sets off to Morgan about the 20th of next month, therefore if I find that any thing is likely to be done in the business I will urge him to be decisive on the Subject immediately & send an Express to the Governor if [2] necessary & must beg your assistance in the matter

I am with respects to M^{rs}. Blount

Dear Sir
Yours &c &c
BL BAKER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 1st. February 1794

Dear Sir,

I have Just received your favor of the 30th Ultimo, and as Mr. [Abner] Neale sent me word that an Opportunity offers tomorrow for Washington, I sit down to answer it.

The Conduct of Haywood has been to me so incomprehensible, so childish, and wavering, & undecided in his late conduct respecting the Judges appointment, after he had expressly wrote me that he would accept it, when the then Circuit was over, or in other words when the Gen^l. Assembly should elect him, that for my part I should be ashamed to nominate him again to the Council, & so far as it may depend upon me he will not be appointed during the present recess. I have no Idea of having any hand in making a Judge of a man who it appears does not know his own Opinion. Indeed I am in doubt Whether I shall recommend any measure of that kind to the consideration of the Council. first, I am uncertain whether the present case comes under the clause in the Constitution, the Assembly having been in Session since the [2] since the vacancy happened, and after the Gov^r. & Council had made a temporary appointment, without their having elected a Judge. 2^d. I think it will be next to impossible to make an appointment that will do *me* any Credit, in the present situation of our bar, & with *my* Council. I think it probable the Majority of the Council would be in favor of Ridley from the pains Judge Williams has & I expect will take

for him—therefore wont agree to the nomination I may make—If Haywood is out of the question which I think is the case, (at least with me) Hay is likewise[,] so the contest would then be between J. Taylor & Ridley, I should of course nominate the former in preference to the latter indeed, if there was the most distant Idea of the latter being the *man*, I should remain silent upon the subject during my continuance in office, rather then have any hand in appointing him. I will thank you to write me your Sentiments fully on this subject.

A Brig from Boston brings papers giving an acct. of the french having defeated the Combined Army near Maubeuge [sic], obliged them to raise the seige of that place & retreat over the river Sambre with great loss—I believe it [3] is true.

I am with Respect & Esteem

Dear Sir

Your most Ob^t. Ser^t.

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

New bern February 2

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 6th Feb^y. 1794

Dear Sir,

The recommendations of our assembly on the subject of Forts was not heard of here by any body 'till your Letter was received, but as the Committee of Congress appointed to report what Ports in the United States ought to be fortified has not yet reported your information of it will answer every purpose provided you will by the next post, or as soon afterwards as you can, comply with your promise to furnish a Drawing of Occa-cock Inlet in the manner described—whether Beacon Island, or Shell Rock which you offer as a substitute for it, is our property or not, I do not know; nor do I know, if it is, the terms on which you are willing to let the United States or the State of N^o. Carolina, have it—and on both these subjects I wish to be fully informed as early as possible—at the same time I will thank you

for your opinion respecting the number of Guns necessary to be placed in the fort & the expense of erecting a proper Battery. the Committee, if they should report before your information comes forward, will, I think, report in favor of the recommendation of our Assembly—And now, sir, while I am asking your opinion on other Subjects permit me to ask it in the most full and explicit terms on that of Commercial Regulations as proposed by Mr. Madisons' Resolutions, which I presume you have seen & consider'd—The general one which contains the principle intended to be established by the particular ones that follow was on the 3^d. Instant agreed to in Committee of the whole by a Majority of 5-Ayes 51. Noes 46—& yesterday the further Consideration of the Subject was postponed to the first Monday in March [2] for the purpose of giving time to collect the Sense of the people at large & receive the answer of the Court of Great Britain to our Remonstrance relative to Spoliations, which Mr. Pinckney has been directed to obtain by the first day of Dec^r. last, or write us then how the matter stood on that Day—The Duties proposed to be laid on the several articles enumerated will be on the average about 10 P.Cent and though it is to be infer'd from the Resolutions as they now stand, that the manufactures of all Countries not in Commercial Treaty with us, are to be subjected to these Duties, it is understood, nay acknowledged that the manufactures of Great Britain alone are intended—My own opinion is favorable to the principle & to the particular Resolutions used to declare it; because it is necessary that we should make Great Britain feel that we have power to injure her as much as she has injured us, in order to dispose her to do us justice & treat us with proper respect—& for two reasons we can only do it by an attack upon her Commerce & Manufactures. one is, that if we were in a Condition for War & disposed to enter into it, She has saved the Nation's honor by a disavowal of an unfriendly disposition toward us & thereby removed the necessity of it. the other is, that it is in her Commerce & Manufactures only that She is vulnerable to us by any attack that we are capable of making—However I shall always consider it my duty to accommodate my opinion to that of my Constituents on subjects that so materially concern their Interests, when I shall Know what their opinion is & that it has been formed on good [3] information—With your own opinion I therefore wish you to give me that of as many persons as you may have oppor-

tunity to converse with—as I am not certain that I have sent you these Resolutions, & as, otherwise, you may not have seen them, I now send them to you.—The Business now before the House is the Report of a Committee on the subject of a Navy—what that report states I have told you in a former Letter—whether it will be concurred with remains yet doubtful—it's fate I shall be able to make known to you by the next post—Insurance may be had here on the Bell from Washington to one port in Jamaica & back again to Washington at 7½ or 8 P Cent & nothing less—Insurance might be made on the Russel, *absolutely*, at 5 P Cent I have however thought it best not to insure on her in that manner until I shall hear further from you—your Letter did not reach me until yesterday since which I have not been able to collect any information on the subject of Certificates—you shall hear from me about them by next post—The petition of Thomas Person & others has been rec^d. read & refer'd to a Committee consisting of William Smith (S. C.) Tho. P. Carnes; Francis Preston, Alex^r. D. Orr & myself—I am however of opinion that be the Report of the Committee what it may, no redress will be obtained by the Petitioners[.] all the members that I have conversed with on [4] the subject have expressed opposition—Mr. Allison this Evening called on me & told me that Certificates issued by Haywood can be bought in plenty at two Dollars in the pound on the face—and I suppose they will answer your purpose—if so, inform me & I shall buy—at the same time let me know whether they will do to pay Bonds for Lots in Raleigh as I owe on that Score & should be glad to pay in that way—I am happy to hear that my conduct toward the Members of Assembly of my District was agreeable to them: for though I do not Know that I shall be very anxious to continue in my present Situation, longer than for the time I have been elected I am extremely desirous of giving entire & general Satisfaction while I do continue—my indisposition, which Still continues but in a less degree, has prevented my paying so much of that sort of attention that consists in writing, as I wished & intended—I have lately experienced another attack on the Bladder such as I had in the Summer of 1791 after my severe illness & have now a complaint in the breast that renders writing extremely painful. insomuch that instead of ten or twelve Letters that I intended writing by this post I am only able to write one beside this, which is to Col. Davie in answer to one I rec^d. from him

yesterday—I have determined to treat all my Constituents alike & when I am not able to write a Letter at least, to each County calculated to convey some information [5] I make it a rule not to write at all—hence it is that I have written so seldom—all my Letters are copies of the same Original & all designed for Public Perusal so that my information will be found to be the same in every County both in substance & in words.—I have been attentive to Mr Jackson & have rec^d. great attention from him—the understanding between us is as good as could be wished but on the subject of Business nothing has been Said that could authorize me to say how far his friendship or assistance in the way you mentioned may be counted on—He has frequently lamented that the fever prevented his supplying us with Goods last fall & expressed a wish to do so in future to Which I have answer'd that we should be well pleased to form a Connection with him when we could find it convenient & mutually advantageous—I am obliged to quit—Remember me to your family & generally to my friends

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

The prices Curt. I have not power at present to obtain in time to forward them [6] You will find Madisons Resolutions in the inclosed Halifax Paper & also Mr. Jefferson's Report which is the ground of them—which is my reason for sending it to you—

T B

[No address]

John Hall to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 7th Feb^y. 1794

Sir

Please Secure all the Swamps & Piney lands in your State—as for the Marshes I will advise you—Should the State officers object for the Lands to progress in my name take them out in your own—Should this be the case I would wish the conveyance, or conveyances to be made by a Skilful Attorney, particularly describing the Boundries & your occupation—let the Conveyance be Signed Subsequent to the Governors Signing the Grants—Titles made to me of Philadelphia—Parchment preferable,

with a Seal of Wax on ribbon—the Same [2] to be recorded—A Certificate from the Clerke in the County you reside, there are no Judgments Mortgages or Executions ag^t. you—by applying to your Judges perhaps you might obtain a Certificate to this purpose & naming the Suits in those Counties—Indeed even if the Grants are in my name Vouchers will be equally necessary for me, as suited for you—Foreigners will not purchase Without Such Testimonials—Morris & Nicholson would not doubt my assertion, but Strangers might, & with out these Certificates to accompany the Titles I do not believe Lands would bring anything—

I wish you would get the Secretary or Some Person Capable to give a little Sketch of the Coast contiguous to the lands [3] and of this river²⁰

Please get A few Leading Characters to Certifye the quality of the land—how near the ocean—the wood & Soil & advantage of the land after Cultivation—Fish &c—and every real & natural advantage—I would be Glad to have your communications from time to time respecting the quantity of lands obtainable—your drafts at any time Shall be honoured by

Y^r. &c

J. HALL

[No address]

*William Blount to Thomas Hart**

KNOXVILLE February 9th 1794

Dear Sir,

The proof you enclosed me of the publication in the Hagar's Town Gazette I have committed to safe hands to deposit in the office of Landon Carter, esquire the Clerk and Master in equity for the District of Washington[,] consequently it will be before the next Court which will commence on the third monday in March next—But it is my opinion that it is essential to the having the decree of division made in any short period that the company²¹ should some part of them be personally present or that they should have an attorney in fact present at the Court

²⁰This was probably the occasion for the production of Jonathan Price's Map of Ocracoke of 1795. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 453; Jonathan Price to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1794, page 363, below; *The North Carolina Historical Review*, III (October, 1926), 633.

²¹See page 349n. 16, above.

* From Blount Collection (1780-1834), microfilm enlargements.

to push the Business.—I would not be understood to reflect on Colonel Avery whom I have heard is the attorney at law for the company as neglecting his duty to his clients but it must be known to you that all lawyers require pushing, prompting informing &c by the parties for whom they are engaged.—Colonel [Richard] Henderson has sons, Mr. Hog [James Hogg] has a son, who has married Miss Johnson so that he represents two partners why cannot some of them appear at the Court as attorney in fact for the company and push the business.—I should suppose the persons originally composing the company would be anxious to see an end to a troublesome business and if they are not the persons who have purchased from them and have placed their faith and confidence in them are truly desirous to know where the lands they purchased are to be found and to receive legal titles for them from the company or from the individuals of it from whom they purchased.—But a previous question arises that is what have the company got to divide[?] have they obtained a grant from the State of North Carolina? It is paid by persons learned in law industriously engaged with a farm and valuable mills—

Tom Blount is in Congress and engaged in trade with John Gray Blount and myself— Jacob Blount the younger of the full Brothers is married to Miss Collins a lady of fortune and lives at Edenton—My sister [Anne Blount Harvey] lives a widow and she and Tom keep house together at Tarborough and with them live my two eldest daughters— Willie one of the half Brothers is my private Secretary and student of law and Sharpe the younger lives at and owns Blount Hall the seat of my father.—All doing as well as themselves or friends have anyright to expect.—

It would have afforded me singular pleasure to have called on you on my way to Philadelphia and my reason for not doing it was that my business going and returning compelled me to pass Richmond.—Be pleased to present me affectionately to my Cousin and your Family and to believe me with very sincere esteem

Your Obedient Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

Colonel Thomas Hart

[No Address]

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 13th Feb^y. 1794

Dear Sir,

I have rec^d. a Letter from Mountfloreance to the Governor dated at Amsterdam the 17th Octo. last in which he says, "That Mr R. [Robert] Morris' Son was at Amsterdam—that he had lately effected, on behalf of His father, a Sale of two Millions of acres of Land in the back part of New York at about half a Dollar P Acre, but that it was stipulated he should Deposit part of the purchase Money until the Indian Titles should be extinct & that he did guaranty the extinction of them—The Bankers who have effected this Sale are those of the United States for the*

Loan and I am now endeavoring to get acquainted with them in order to sound them on our Business—The present critical Situation of affairs in France would make me prefer doing the Business of this moment rather than at Paris—but should I fail here, I will endeavor to get to Paris as soon as possible tho it is a difficult & dangerous undertaking, so great are the Suspensions, Diffidences & Jealousies on all Sides—17th. I have been introduced at last to the Bankers & have mentioned to them the Lands; they do not seem now in the intention to purchase, but have promised to communicate the proposals to their friends & to inform me if any person should wish to purchase—I have given them one of Doct. [Hugh] Williamson's pamphlets & had a long conversation respecting the Country."—and on the subject of Land he Says nothing further—Mr. Allison who has been several Days in treaty for some Carolina Certificates, told me this Morning that he had not bargained & that the holders of them, being informed of the Resolution of the Gen^l. Assembly²², ask 1 7/8 Dollar, or 15/hard, in the pound on the amo^t. of principal & Interest [2] he has *—————hard, that is 2 Dollars, *————— on the face; & if they are purchased at that price you can have the Sum you may have occasion for—in purchasing at the price asked there would be no advantage great enough to be consider'd an object—The Report of the Committee on the Subject of a naval force has been under Debate for some Days past in a Committee of the Whole—& the first part *————, which says

²²He probably refers to the recommendation of the finance committee to retire the certificates issued in connection with the currency bill of May 6, 1783. Legislative Papers, house of commons, December 17-31, 1793, December 21.

* Parts of the manuscript are so marred that they are illegible.

that the force ought to be 4 frigates of 44 Guns & 2 Ships of 20 Guns each, was on Tuesday last agreed to by a Majority of 2—yeas 47, Nays 45—On the ways & means no question has yet been taken; it is therefore still impossible to say whether the measure will be finally adopted—It will be opposed violently in every Stage & its' advocates are by no means Sanguine in their hope of Success. & The friends of Madison's Resolutions have therefore proposed to them, out of Doors, to let both the frigates & Resolutions lie in their present state 'till the next Session of Congress—I plainly foresee that the public expectation will be disappointed & that disgust at home & contempt abroad will be the consequence—He who would envy a Member of Congress would envy the Damned in Hell—I have suffer'd more inquietude since my arrival at this place than the Mines of Mexico could compensate me for—yet having put my hand to the plough I shall look steadily forward & do the best I can—the Committee on the Post Office and post roads reported, among [3] [] New Road [] through Greenville ————— around ————— * through Princeton & Murfrees boro' to Winton [in Hertford County] & thence to Bennets Creek Bridge [in Chowan County] & a road from New Bern through Kinston[,] Wynesboro' & Smithfield to Raleigh & that part of the report was yesterday agreed to in Committee of the Whole—The Report proposed a discontinuance of the road from Edenton to Wilmington (the part between Washington & New Bern excepted) and a discontinuance of the road from Halifax to Plymouth but by the assistance of my Colleagues I got those parts of the Report struck out—I think the three new roads mentioned will certainly be established & if they are I shall feel well pleased—the two former I proposed & am very anxious about—& I am equally anxious for the preservation of the Roanoak road I would not have had it discontinued on any Acco^t. thus you see that my wishes on the subject of post roads are like to be gratified beyond all expectations & I have the satisfaction to believe that my Constituents will all be as highly gratified as myself.

The Government of Guadaloupe has called on Congress, by an address which was read on friday last, for aid in Men. provisions & ammunition. How the application will be treated I am not able to inform you—It places the United States in a situation the most disagreeable critical & perilous that could

* Parts of the manuscript are so marred that they are illegible.

have been imagined—If we do not furnish the aid required we shall violate a Treaty which it is our Interest our Duty & our desire to preserve. & thereby forfeit the friendship of the only nation on Earth that has befriended, or shewn a Sincere disposition to befriend, us²³—and if we do [4] *_____

_____ better that *_____ Britian Spain will make War upon us—for by a Convention enter'd into between those two powers at Aranjués²⁴ on the 28th of May last —“It is agreed that no Neutral Nation shall give any protection either direct or indirect on the Sea or in the ports of France to the Commerce of the French, or to anything that belongs to them & further to guaranty to each other their several Rights, possessions &c. in every quarter of the World & in case either Shall be attacked in consequence of this Stipulation to make common cause of it—”

I am, however, for complying with our Treaty be the consequences what they may—for to this Treaty we owe the Happiness we at present enjoy of Legislating for ourselves—But a Majority of Congress are probably of a contrary opinion.

We have passed but two Bills or Acts yet, one for altering the flag of the United States, which I before mentioned, the other for appropriating 15,000 Dollars for the relief of the unhappy Refugees from St. Domingo—from this information you will naturally conclude that we must sit a long time, or do but little Business this Session—my own opinion is we shall do both.

Inclosed I send you the prices Current in Saturday last & a late Paper—A Successor to Genet is expected daily—I have the Rheumatism so bad that I can not straighten myself or strip myself. My right hand happens to be less affected than other parts or I could not write a word—it is however affected considerably—Comp^{ts}. to all

[No address.]

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

²³Thomas Blount was extremely pro-French in the conflict between England and France.

²⁴Aranjués is a small town and palace near Madrid in Spain. It was for sometime the spring residence of the Spanish court. A treaty of alliance between France and Spain was signed here on April 12, 1772, also.

* Parts of the manuscript are so marred that they are illegible.

Jonathan Price to John Gray Blount

[February 15, 1794]

Friend John G. Blount

We are here yet and god Knows when we Shall get away for it Seems as if every day was to have been the Last ever Since thee Left this place. but now we have gone through all the Plotting and nothing to do but Write Certificates the Large Plots to David Allison. Seems to have been tolerable well described but many of the 640 Acre ones wont Require a great deal of magick to find them as they Say nothing as to a Beginng or ending only at a pine in moore County. and Som Times go So far as to Say "the corner of his former Survey without so much as teling the number. I have try^d my best to conect Some of them together to no purpose. I therefore think it would well for you to write to Surveyor of moore County Perhaps by his field notes he may Know how the Lye or So many as Joine Each other in one place that he might Stick them together acording to their numbers. for who would buy Land in So Large a County as Moore with nothing more Said as to its bounderes than beging at a pine in Said County. perhaps the Surveying is corect and I believe it is there are but few mistakes in the Plots—

[2] I believe I Should not have Stayd at Raleigh so long had it not been for Sylby who has been at the very Jaws of death but we now hope he will Recover Doctor [Hugh] Williamson has paid the Strictedst attention to him, we have Set up with him every night this week he has had 3 Blisters Plasters on him and now cannot Set up tho his feaver has abated and Left him alive and thas is all I can Say

JON^a. PRICE15th Febuary 1794

N. B. we have kept one of the Rough's of every plan and the other M^c. Cloud takes I have beg^d. him to try [to] Conect the work togethe[r]

J PRICE

Addressed: John G Blount

Washington

P M^r. Casso)

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 20th Feb^y. 1794

Dear Sir,

I have rec.^d your favor of the 30th Ult^o. dated at Greeneville [North Carolina] & would, if I could, sit, stand or lie in an attitude favorable to writing, answer it fully, but having the Rheumatism so damnably that I can do neither must put you off for the present with a short Epistle—I told you in my last that a Committee had been appointed to take into Consideration & Report upon the Petition of T. Person & others in the subject of Western Lands purchased from the State of N^o. Carolina & ceded by the Treaty of Holstein to certain Indian Tribes and I have now to tell you that they yesterday Reported as their opinion That the Certificates paid for said Lands ought of right to be restored to their former Proprietors & that they should be assumed & provided for as a part of the Dbt of the United States—and that the said Proprietors should moreover be reimbursed all Expenses incurred in Entering, locating & Surveying said Lands.

The Report was made the order of the Day for Wednesday next & by the next post I expect to be able to inform you of its fate which I at present [thin]k will be damnation—M^r [David] Allison has told me that he intends writing you on [2] various matters & among others the Debt you sometime ago informed me you wished to make it convenient to pay for your neighbour—The Report of the Committee on the Subject of post Roads which proposes a road from Tarb^o. through Greenevill to Washington & many other new roads has passed the House & a Bill is now preparing to carry it into effect—who is a proper person for Postmaster in Greeneville? I wish the people of the place to agree among themselves on a proper person & send me his name—the post will certainly be established—Do you want a Contract for carrying the mail²⁵ & if you do what is it worth?—The inclosed paper contains our latest news from Europe that has been published—The president has rec^d by the Dec^r. packet dispatches, from M^r. [Thomas] Pinckney, I suppose on the subject of his representation to the British Court relative to Spoliation, but they are not yet Communicated—M^r. Fauchet the Successor of M^r. Genet is expected here daily nay hourly—Goodluck to the

²⁵John Gray Blount often had contracts to carry the mail, but he failed to get one at this time. David Allison to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, September 5, 1794, page 429, below.

Major & Sharpe in their voyage to the Land of Matrimony²⁶ Give my Compliments & Respects to [3] Any of my Constituents as ask after me & tell them all the news you get either from me or elsewhere I am not able to write Letters of information for public perusal and that is my greatest grief

Remember me to your family

& believe me as usual

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Free Tho. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 21st February 1794

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to your request I called at the Entry Takers of Tyrell, and to my great surprise, I found that Mess^{rs}. Allen & Lewis had made three entries for 150,000 acres of land in that County—I had intended to have furnished you with the courses of each, but the minutes of them having been taken with a pencil, were, by rubbing in my pockett book, quite obliterated: I will however point them out as well as I can from recollection—

100,000 acres beginning at the heads of both the Alligators, running from thence to Croatan, then following the lines of the inhabitants to the Sound, then along the Sound to Long Shoal River, and thence West to the lines of Collins Allen & Dickinson, 40,000 acres at the heads of the Alligators, beginning on the above entry, and running westwardly. 10,000 acres adjoining the inhabitants of Scuppernong—so much for Allen & Lewis—Of the 8,000 acres on Pungo, C. A. [Collins, Allison] & Dickinson have taken a part, the rest I Suppose you will hold²⁷—

²⁶Major Reading Blount married Lucy Harvey, a half sister of John Gray Blount's wife, and Sharpe Blount married Penelope Little.

²⁷The area described lies between Albemarle Sound and Pamlico Sound in northeastern North Carolina.

I do [2] believe that in two or three Counties, there are nearly 300 thousand acres of vacant land, and if it be immaterial in what part of the lower Country the land lies, in my opinion, there is half a million: In case you will let me partake equally with yourself in the contract, I would take the trouble of entering and Surveying all the land of that description that can be found, provided the person with whom the contract subsists, will place money in my hands to pay for the entries. at the time they shall be made, pay all the expences of surveying &c, and give 4000 dollars for every 100,000 thousand acres, clear of every charge; all of which, I think you told me, he had engaged to do— On this subject, will thank you for a line by the earliest opportunity—

I have mentioned the Jamaica trip to Jacob, who has not yet determined whether he [3] he will undertake it

I am D^r Sir very respt

y^r obt

JOSIAH CO[LLINS]

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.
Washington

Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount

[NEW BERN, Feby. 23, 1794]

Dear Sir,

No doubt you have thought me Whimsical and trifling in relation to the treaty for Shell Castle lands.²⁸ I must own that I ought to have answered you long ago; & also to have thanked you for the map you favord me with: but in truth I have been so Sick ever since I returned, & I now have the ague & fever Constantly, which has so depressed my Spirits & weakened my nerves; that mole Hills have become Mountains, with me, to that degree, that I am afraid to think of any enterprize or scheme of business out of the common road—This is the reason, I have not been more explicit with you, & the reason why I have neglected you as well as some others of my correspondants. I must Confess, nevertheless, that the price you have asked me for the one half of the [2] the Shell Castle lands, would have astonished me at my best time of health. Surely they can not

²⁸See Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1793, in *Letters for 1793*, page 323, above.

be your friends, who tell you, you did not ask me price enough, if they have any idea of the extent of improvements that I mean to make, & must necessarily establish there, if I ever attempt it at all—I always Conjectured that you would ask me a thousand or fifteen hundred Dollars; but how far was I out, when you ask five thousand Dollars—in all my calculations with the gentleman who I have Associated with me, the first purchase Money was stated at one thousand or fifteen hundred Dollars: & I have been almost a Shamed to announce your demand to him, as he would have Such reason to believe I did not know what I was about, or that I had managed the business with you so much like a Blundering Blockhead, that by telling you the whole Scheme, I encreased your ideas of the Value of the [3] the Spot: So indeed I believe I have managed.—Would you not have taken fifteen hundred Dollars, for the one half of the Shell Castle lands this time last year? but apart from this the heavy Sum you ask me, is almost a fatal objection to the project; that in addition to the sum it would Cost to erect the other buildings, would load the Schemer with such an intolerable burthen; that should it not succeed agreeably to my hopes & expectations, it would Seal my ruin.—be generous & take some of the risque with me, as you must Share my Success, for Should I Succeed your half will be worth twice as Much as the whole is now: & should I not undertake it, your children may not live, to see it, as extensively improved as it will be in a few years if I do enterprise it. Weigh all these circumstansces maturely; we have time as nothing can be done untill [4] untill peace returns—I Shall go to Philadelphia again in April or May, Just as my health is bether or worse—& before I go, I Should like that Something decided should take place between us on the matter:—but I can not think of making you any proposal, while you hold to such a Sum, so much beyond what I think you ought reasonably to expect & demand.

I am with great respect & Esteem Dear Sir

y^r most Obedient Servant

DAN. CARTHY

New bern 23^d Feb^y 1794

John G. Blount esquire

[No address]

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE, February 25th, 1794

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to the promise I made when I last saw you I now write you the news of this place—all intercourse between us and the Indians has ceased for sometime past—Mr Seagrove²⁹ wrote my brother [William Blount] some weeks ago from the Creek nation and spoke in the most positive terms that that nation had entered into a determination to adhere to the treaty of New York but I fear his information cannot be depended on—A man arrived here the other day from Georgia who says that he was told by a gentleman who had seen Mr Seagrove on his way from the Creeks and that he told him the Creeks had given him a limited time to leave their Country in, which he did finding that his safety depended on it—this report does not corroborate with the information forwarded to my brother—Seagrove further said that the Spaniards some time last fall held a treaty with the four southern nations of Indians and that they had concluded an offensive and defensive treaty that in his opinion it did not promise any great advantages to the nations nor lend to the interest of the United States—The Indians continue to harrass the frontiers in small parties but have not done a great deal of mischief latterly in this district—they have Killed and wounded a few people in the district of Mero not long since—they fired on the express last week who was on his way from Nashville to this place with letters from General Robertson to my brother [William Blount] and wounded him it is supposed not mortally

General [George Rogers] Clark of Kentuckey has taken a Major General's commission in the armies of france, and is raising men to go down the Ohio against the floridas—what [2] success he will have I know not—his proceedings are very contrary to the wishes of the federal government.

The lot which I own in NewBern I think it best to sell and will thank you to conduct the sale in such manner as will be pleasing to yourself and I shall be satisfied with your proceedings on that head—the deed is in the registers office in Craven—The inclosed paper may be satisfactory to some of your acquaintance who may be at a loss for information on the subject on which it is written and will probably start some of your piney woods

²⁹James Seagroves was an Indian agent of the Federal government.

men to view land similar to that described in the inclosed and view things in their proper light by experience—

I at present think of purchasing a tract of land not far below this and to settle on it—

I have some thought of making application to these Judges for an admittance at the bar but have not yet fixed on a time—I told Rickard³⁰ the reason you did not write him by me—he said he had expected a letter but if your business was so arranged that you could not find time you were excusable but hoped it would not always be the case.—Captain Kerr has resigned his commission—Rickard is not yet promoted but as he stands high in the estimation of the President have no doubt but he soon will be—Please remember me to my sister and family—I am

Yours Sincerely

WILLIE BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Knoxville February 25th 1794

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 27th Feb^y. 1794

Dear Sir,

The Representation of the Pilots of Occacok Barr & the Masters of Vessels, Merchants & owners of Vessels trading in & out at the same relative to a Light House, which I rec^d. on the 25th P Doct Williamson, was yesterday read in the House of Representatives & refer'd to the Secretary of the Treasury from whom I presume it will receive due & Speedy attention—I shall take the earliest opportunity of seeing & conversing with him on the Subject & will urge every reason I can think of in its favor; at the same time I shall not forget to throw cold water on Hatteras—Our affairs with France have assumed a new & very pleasing Aspect—Mr Fauchet, successor to Genet, arrived here on the 21st & was rec^d. on the 22^d Ins^t. to the great Satisfaction of all descriptions of people—He brings reiterated assurances of the friendly Disposition of his nation [France] toward us & appears to be a modest Cautious & discerning Man—But with great

³⁰Rickard was a clerk in the War Office of the Federal Government and was appointed Quarter Master. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, IV, 274. This was probably the same person whom William Blount mentioned as a physician (William Blount to John Gray Blount, May 26, 1794), page 396, below.

Britain our affairs have been continually progressing from Bad to worse till at length They have become so bad that they scarcely can be worse Our hope that, that nation would surrender our posts [in the old Northwest], cease to commit Spoliations on our Commerce & pay respect to our Neutral Rights is now at an end & we have strong Reasons to believe that she meditates further injury to us—I do not think she will declare War against us be sure it is now [in] my [2] opinion, certain that the combined powers must fail in their attempt to re-establish Monarchy in France; But it always has been & still is my opinion that on the Success of France depends the peace of America. Dispatches of the date of the 25th Novem^r. were rec^d. from Mr Pinckney by the Dec^r. Packet But as they have been communicated confidentially by the President to Congress I am not at liberty to inform you of their Contents—In your commercial arrangements I would advise you to Keep in remembrance that our political Situation is critical & that War, notwithstanding the ardent desire of the U. S. from prudential motives to avoid it, may happen—I can only say that the U. S. will not go to war lest they are driven to it by the most pressing necessity & possibly that may be averted by the recent Successes of France which are very important. the Captain of a Vessel arrived at N. York from Guernsey which place he left on the 8th Jan^r. asserts that Toulon is retaken—that the British burnt 7 Sail of line of Battle Ships (French) in the harbour because they could not take them away—& Lord Moira (late Rawdon)³¹ who had been some time in the Island of Jersey preparing to make a descent on France to assist the Royalists, had return'd with his army to England—Should these accounts prove [true] (& they are corroborated by Letters this day [3] rec^d. here from Cadiz & other places in such manner that they cannot be doubted) it is probable that the War in Europe will soon be at an end: for it is here a common opinion that the combined powers will scarcely attempt another Campaign.

I promised to inform you by this post of the fate of the Report of the Select[ed] Committee on Western Lands, but it is not in my power to do so—as the Report has not yet been taken up in the House. Doct^r. Williamson is desirous that it should be a few Days longer—I have had the Rheumatism so long to confine

³¹The Second Earl of Moira or Lord Rawdon (1754-1826) held an Irish peerage. In 1790 he assumed the name of Hastings, to which he added fame in England as well as in India. *Webster Biographical Dictionary* (Springfield, Massachusetts: G. & C. Merriam Co., 1943), 676.

me within Doors that I know no more about Commercial matters in this City than if I had not been here—I have it still & it still prevents me from writing to my friends except such as write to me on Business—You will I trust excuse me to them—I give a wish of Joy to the Lads of the family that have taken wives lately & another to their Lasses—I am glad they have so much increased the prospect of perpetuating the family name—The L[ottery] is now nearly drawn if you will send me the numb[ers] of your Tickets & I shall be able to receive your prize money—Comp^{ts}. to everybody

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

The Senate has passed a Vote declaring they will legislate after this Session with open Doors—

Addressed: M^r. J^{no}. G Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Stockley Donelson³² to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 7th March 1794

Dear Sir/

I have Not lost Sight of the Indian Deed Signed to the Company of the Bent of Tennasee in which you are deeply concerned. I wish you to Send the deed by your Brother Willie to Governor Blount at Knoxville where we can Council on the Business, Perhaps Something May be done to advantage for the company³³

I am with Esteem

your M^o. Ob^t Ser^t.

STOCKLEY DONELSON

John Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Blount Esq^r.
Washington

M^r. Blackledge)

³²Stockley Donelson (see page 348n. 13, above) was a land surveyor in the Tennessee area and often made surveys for the Blounts.

³³A land company which sought to gain control of lands on the bend of the Tennessee River. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, pages 63, 87, 535-537.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 7th March 1794

Dear Sir,

To your plan of Commerce expressed in your Letter of the 15th Ult^o., which in a more settled state of Things I should fully approve I cannot under the present existing circumstances or our Situation, assert. American property wherever it is found on the Ocean become a prey to the finder. It derives no protection either from the Laws of Nations or Treaties—The English take all they find going to France; The French take all they find going to England, Spain, Holland &c. & the Algerines without regard to destination, take all they can catch—So that it may, in fact, be said that our Trade to Europe is entirely cut off—If the Vessels of the United States were all at home, or in other words, if so many of them were not in the Ports of Nations who have totally disregarded the Laws of Nations & the rights of neutrality, I have reason to think that there would be a pretty unanimous vote of Congress for a general Embargo—and under all the disadvantages of our exposed Situation both on Sea & Land, I am not certain that some measure of the Kind will not be adopted. But at present it is impossible to say what will be done or whether any thing—The President yesterday laid before us Evidence of Spoliation, condemnations &c. to amount of at least half a Bush^l. which were refer'd to a [2] select Committee of five—on this occasion Gentlemen who in opposition to Madisons Resolutions asserted, three or four weeks ago, that our Commerce was in a situation better than good, declared that the Belligerent powers were actually at war against our property—that it was time for us to take measures to coneract their Depredations if we possess the power to do so—& that if we do not possess such a power we ought to lay a general Embargo & hawl up our Vessels that they may no longer be exposed to the ravages of our Enemies—The hope of obtaining a Peace with the Algerines by Treaty or purchase is no longer entertained because we are informed by Mr. Humphries³⁴ that he has been denied permission to go to Alegiers for the purpose of treating on any terms whatever—It then follows of course that if Congress should find our Commerce worth protecting they will establish

³⁴David Humphreys, Commissioner on Algerine Affairs.

a naval force to protect it³⁵—A Bill for authorizing the President to build & equip 4 frigates of 44 Guns & 2 Ships of 20 Guns each is now before the House & will probably pass—Madison's Resolutions are further postponed until Monday next—Were I at liberty to communicate to you the information communicated by M^r Pinckney in his Dispatches of the 25th Nov^r. I am persuaded you would be as ready as myself to relinquish your proposed plan for sending D. A—n [David Allison] to England—The best informed Man in the [3] United States cannot say that from our Situation we have a right to expect to remain at peace with either England or Spain—6 Months & I can say in regard to the former that if we do, it must be because we have not courage to resent the grossest Insults & greatest Injuries that ever one Nation offer'd to another—Accounts are rec^d. here from Kentucky, which we rely on, that General Geo. Rogers Clarke would leave the falls of the Ohio sometime in the month of Feb^r. with 2.000 Men (of which about 200 under Command of Col^o. Montgomery went from the Cumberland Settlement) on an Expedition against the Spanish Settlements on the River Mississippi—and I conceive that one of the consequences of this expedition must be a war with Spain although in reality it ought not for the people that have engaged in the Enterprise have expatriated themselves & all the Officers of it have French Commissions furnished by Genet—

M^r Allison writes you by this Post to inform you of his readiness to accede to your plan when the time proper for executing it may arrive & his reasons for thinking that the present time is not proper—from his Letter you will receive information of the value of Coffee both here & in Holland; but as the 85.000^{lb} of Coffee you intended to buy together with the rest of the Cargo of the Cast away Vessel is order'd round to this place by James & Shoemaker I presume it is not of very great importance to [4] you to know what is its' value in any part of Europe—To my enquiries on the subject of M^r. Asbel's Land in Delaware I have rec^d. no answer that is Satisfactory—The only Man that I know, or have heard of, by the name of John Vining is a Senator from that State & he affects to know nothing at all about the matter—I have not been able to go to Kent County myself for two reasons

³⁵Apparently John Gray Blount had suggested a general embargo, probably against England. It is interesting to find Thomas disagreeing with him. But Thomas was not in a satisfactory position. He was anxious for the government to use force against England, yet the establishment of a national army was not in accord with the southerners who wanted to maintain a strong militia.

first because I have been & still am too much afflicted with Rheumatism to ride Secondly because I could not leave Congress—But M^cCabe is here & I shall get him to go down in the course of the next week if he is not too much engaged in other Business—I begin to entertain a Hope that Congress will assume the Certificates that have been paid into the Treasury of N^o. Caro^a. for Lands ceded by the treaty of Holstein to the Indians & will thank you to give Such information to the holders of Land lying in that Country who live within your reach, as will guard them against Speculators—but mind I do not speak positively—I only say that I begin to entertain a Hope— and as the report of the select Committee has not yet been decided on in Committee of the whole the Hope may for aught I know be improperly indulged—It is founded on the favorable opinions [5] of some Gentlemen who were at first opposed to the measure—you either did not write me before on the subject of the Cargo of the cast away Vessel or your Letter miscarried but the latter is very probable—tell the Major [Reading Blount] I wish him joy—his saddle will come by the first Vessel from this place—you will please also to wish Joy to Sharpe [Blount] for me & tell him I shall send a Sett of the handsomest China I can get tho it is at present a Scarce article here—Remember me to your family—

THO. BLOUNT

Yours &c.

There will be a Battery of 8 Guns at Ocracocke if the plan of fortifying the Sea ports & harbours proposed by a select Committee & approved by a Committee of the whole should finally be adopted—what Sum of Money will erect it? the Committee reported 573 Dollars but I moved to encrease it to 1500—the motion was agree to. will that Sum do?—

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 13th March 1794

Dear Sir,

Your very long Letter of the 20th Ult^o. was rec^d. in time—The President will be authorized to Fortify the Ports & harbours of the United States generally & among others Occacock at which place 8 Guns, 24 or 32 pounders, are thought Sufficient—I shall lay before him, as soon as the Bill passes, your sketch of the Islands & recommend to him as you have to me, [Rymer's, *sic*] Rock—The Senate have passed a Bill for erecting a Light House of the first rate at Hatteras & a lighted Beacon on Occacock Island upon the ground Ceded by the State—But when the Bill comes before the House of Representatives I shall move to strike out Occacock Island & insert Beacon Island—I however am not Sanguine in my hope of success for I find that the Report of Mr. Lowether [*sic*] has made a very deep impression on the mind of Mr Tench Coxe the Superintendant of Light Houses, Beacons &c & it will be difficult to get him to report favorably of [on] the Representation brought forward by Doctor [Hugh] Williamson which was refer'd to him the Day after the Doctor's arrival & is not yet reported on—Nothing has occurred Since I last wrote you to alter my opinion of the probability of a War, or to reconcile me to your plan for sending D. A. to England [2] and I am therefore glad that you have relinquished the project—In the inclosed paper you will see the Kings' proclamation of the 6th Nov^r. which induced a general Seizure of all American Vessels that were found in the West Indies when it arrived there which I suppose must amount in number to nearly 150 & in value to many Millions of Dollars—Insurance cannot be had here to the Southern parts of Europe on any terms, nor to England for less than 15 or 20 P Cent which would be asked to almost any port in the West Indies—I therefore think your Brig, if you have sent or should send her to Jamaica will make a *breaking* voyage—Nay, I do not hesitate to Say, that on some pretext or another She will be taken & detained, if not condemned—a Resolution to be added when approved by the States as an amendment to the Constitution relative to the Inability of a State, has passed both Houses³⁶—The Bill for establishing a Navy to consist of 4

³⁶This was the eleventh amendment to the Constitution.

Frigates of 44— 2 of 36 Guns each has passed the House of Representatives & will certainly pass in the Senate—The House of Rep^{rs}. has also passed a Bill for fortifying the ports & harbours & another for Erecting & repairing arsenals & Magazines & providing, arms ordnance & ammunition sufficient to place the nation in a State of Complete Defence—Madison's Resolutions³⁷ are yet under Debate & no further Decision had on them—their fate is extremely doubtful—Your friend D. A. [David Allison] [3] has purchased & will send you by M^r. Carraway who will leave this sometime next week for Edenton, about 4 or £5000 of the sort of paper proper for paying Debts due to the State out of which I will thank you to pay into the Treasury the amount of my Note given for Lots in Raleigh I believe it was for £230—They were purchased at 10/6 hard in the pound on prin. & Int. & both you & myself are to have at the same price what we want of them—they are on Credit for 3 M^{os}. I suppose it will be proper for you to draw what *———— take on Doct^r. Hall payable at *———— after the 10th Ins^t.—The report of the Committee on Western Lands has not been acted on in the House—D. A. *———— you has requested me to say that he has purch^d. [Certificates in sic] addition to the Sum he has mentioned to you £995.15.2 prin. at 13/. He will Send you the whole—I have wrote by this post to Coakley & Jn^o. Mayo each a very Long letter & by the next shall write a Similar letter to each of the Counties. I heretofore have not been able to write to any body & am now but barely able to conclude two in a Week—but the Rheumatism has descended to my Knees & feet & I shall soon recover & write to every body—Remember me to all friends

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

³⁷Madison's Resolutions "to discriminate against all nations not in alliance with the United States" was a step in the adoption of restrictions which ended in the Embargo Act of 1807. James Schouler, *History of the United States of America* (N. Y.: Dodd Meade Co., 1880), I, 264.

* The manuscript is marred.

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA March 13th. 1794

Dear Sir

By a Paragraph in your letter to Col^o. T. Blount, you appear to blame me for neglect in not giving you the prices of Coffee and Molasses at this place, I have only to say, I wrote you as soon and before I heard the Sales were to commence and my Neglect had no influence on James & Shoemaker to induce a removal however much you may be injured thereby.

Since writing you last I have purchased £2554.8 principal Indents and £1588.47. Interest at 10/6 which will be transmitted you in a few days by M^r. Carraway, not daring to trust the Mail Conveyance—I have also to be delivered me to morrow between nine hundred & a thousand pounds more—I mention this that you may make arrangements for the disbursements and have also to observe that you may go to any greater Amount giving me some small Notice before you want them—

I have to solicit your friendly attention to gain as much remittances from those as you conveniently can—I shall be embarrassed for money shortly, having become a purchaser of one third part of the Lead mines on French Broad with Morris & Nicolson expecting some time hence by this connexion to make advantageous arrangements in my business of all which I will give you notice so far [2] as they may be advantageous to you in any Way, and request that you give me such Advice as you may Judge proper and any plans you may think probable to carry into Effect.

M^r. [Bryan] McCabe³⁸ has become fixed here he lives at the Corner of Spruce and fifth—M^r. Blount and myself are to be of his family in this case a few good Hams forwarded to him would be gratefully Accepted and the price remitted you in such other Articles as you may advise

Please inform M^r. Harvey [that] M^cCabe has accepted his bill—pay him the money if convenient, if not, I will transmit to him as soon as I hear from you

I need say nothing to your Apprehensions about European prospects having given you my Opinion fully from Appearances at that time—They are by no means better from any information since.

³⁸Bryan McCabe, formerly of Washington, North Carolina. See Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, May 30, 1794, page 401, below.

I have no late Accounts from the Territory either as to Indian business or [George Rogers] Clarke's expedition against the Spaniards.

I am Sir with great Respect and Esteem

Your Ob^t. Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Col^o. John Blount

Addressed: Colonel John G Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 20th March 1794

Dear Sir,

I would willingly, nay gladly, take you out of the damnable State of fear & Suspense in which you stood when you last wrote me, if I could, but unfortunately I cannot—the ground of your fear is too solid to be removed & the cause of your Suspense operates as well on me as yourself—That the Russel is lost if not insured,³⁹ I take for granted.—for if She has escaped the Algerines it is at least ten to one that She will not escape the English who are in as high a degree hostile toward us—the only difference is that the Algerines make War under an open declaration against both persons & property: & She makes War without a declaration against our property only.—In the West Indies She has taken & will probably Condemn all the Vessels she could catch whether in her own ports, to which they went by permission, or elsewhere (it is therefore fortunate that you did not send the Bell to Jamacia) & in Europe She has detained all—Scarcely one has ret^d. from either place for many weeks, I might say Months, past—I would advise you to send the Bell Coastwise—I believe She might Make a good Voyage to this place with Naval Stores & Spirits of Turpentine, but am not able to give you the exact price of either—Rosin was about a week ago 4 Dollars P Bll—pitch & Tar, ea, about 2—& Spirits of Turpentine 3/P Gal. I will endeavor in the Morning to obtain for you the present prices—Congress have been Debating 4 Days with closed Galleries on

³⁹The *Russell* was not lost at this time. William Charles Lake to John Gray Blount, Liverpool, November 6, 1794, page 455, below.

the Subject of an Embargo & have not yet decided the question, but I venture to predict that a general Embargo for a Short time, say 30 Days, will be determined on to take effect the moment the Resolution passes—but it will not operate on fishing or coasting vessels—it has also been proposed in Congress by [2] 2 or 3 Members to make the Embargo particular on British Vessels & accompany it with Sequestration of all British property whether in Debts, Stock or Merchandise; & I am not sure that that proposition will not finally be agree to—for the late Conduct of that Nation would justify any thing—but at present I think it will not be insisted on. If it is, I shall vote for it, because I consider a War inevitable & believe that, as it cannot be avoided, the Sooner we go into it the better.

The opinion is so prevalent in Congress that, in spite of our passive submission & pacific Disposition, the thing will happen, they have determined to fortify the ports & harbours—to build arsenals & Magazines—& to purchase 200 P^s. Cannon & all the Muskets, Bayonets, Ammunition &c. that can be got—for which purpose Laws are either passed or in very great forwardness & sure to be passed—On the Subject of Coffee—Mr. Allison wrote you fully on the 6th Inst. & I hope his Letter got timely to hand to enable you to make the most of your Securityship—as an article for exportation for the reasons I have mentioned I think it would not answer—but at 15^d. it is surely a good Article to Speculate in for home Consumption—Inclosed I send you the rates of Insurance now asked in this City—a head for your Ship⁴⁰ will cost about 20/P foot—I shall have one ready to go with the Horse Nales [horseshoe nails] by the first Vessel for Washington—We have heard nothing further about Guadaloupe, but the new French Minister who has conducted himself with much modesty, & propriety has requested of us a loan of 1000,-000 Dollars by way of advance on Account of our Debt to France for the purpose of enabling him to send the unhappy Sufferers of St. Domingo to France—and that I suppose we must advance if we possibly can but I very much doubt our ability—21st. I this morning sent to my friends Stewart & Barr for the prices Current of Tar, pitch, Turpentine, Spirits of Turpentine, Rosin, Pork & Indian Corn—& rec^d. from them the inclosed Note—The French [3] have retaken Toulon & 15 of the Ships they lost

⁴⁰This was a head for the *Tuley*. The provision for a woman's head and the added suggestion of the name Rebecca aroused John Gray's ire as few things did. See page 404*n*. 59, below.

with it, raised the Seige of [Weissenburg] & Landau—and driven the Austrians & Prussians over the Rhine—and in Truth the Republican Cause stands now in that Nation & Throughout the world on better ground than it has done at any time heretofore—If the combined powers should be able to make one Campaign more it will be as much—I have written a Long Letter by this post to Henry Smaw Esq^r. which I hope he will Shew to all that may wish to see it—Mr Allison will send you by Mr. Carraway who Will leave this on Sunday next the Papers he mentioned to you in his letter P last post—I will write you about your Tickets by next post but in the meantime I can give the comfortable assurance that you will not be troubled with the 25,000 Dollars or any greater Sum from the Lottery than 5000—as all the larger prizes have been otherwise disposed of—I am getting well—Congress, altho' they talk of rising early next Month, will probably sit 'till the middle of May—Remember to your family & all other friends

THO. BLOUNT

Yours &c.

The appearance of War has caused a rise in Goods of every kind of from 15 to 25 P Cent. & the Merchants Seem unwilling to Sell—

[No address]

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE March 27th 1794

I embrace the Opportunity by a Gentleman going to the Post Road to repeat to you my Request to meet me at the Moravian Town⁴¹ on the first day of May—I shall certainly be there with the full expectation of the Pleasure of seeing you.—The inclosed contains the News of this Place.—Knoxville is now above the Reach of Indian Alarms, let War be as hot as Indian War ever was. I am with affection

Your &c

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount

Addressed: [torn]

John Gray Blount

Mr. Carmichael

to the Post Road

⁴¹Old Salem, which is now a part of the twin city, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*March 27th. 1794

Sir

Inclosed are Certificates from David Allison to amount to £1465.16.2 principal £931.3.4 Interest and under Cover directed to Major Reading Blount are from the same person £1880.12.5. principal £529.11.10 Interest and £275.11.7 of Interest Certificates in old Specie £13.7 Interest on that £9.8.5. County Commissioners £204 Certificates[,] Interest £152 of Childs and an old Specie £28.7.5¼ Interest £8.16.6 amounting to £2126.6.-10¼ Principal and £916.18.4 Interest[,] making in both bundles as by the list inclosed therewith in the bundle to Major Blount Including principal and Interest £5430.4.8.74—I enclose to Major Blount for fear of exceeding my [franking] Priviledge—You will open his letter.

If a further sum can be disposed of to advantage so as to command Cash in a short time Allison can procure to Am^t of £10,000 or more—

I am Sir Your Ob^t Ser^t

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 27th March 1794

Dear Sir,

Letters from Fulwar Skipwith⁴² to the Secretary of State dated at S^t. Eustatia the 1st & 7th of March, say that the British have seized & carried into the Ports of Antiqua, Dominigue, Montreat & S^t. Kitts, 250 Sail of American Vessels of which 150 had been Condemned; & that amon[g] them were some that cleared from America to Neutral or British ports or were bound from Such Ports to America—And from this information I am induced to believe that the Brig Bell will certainly be lost to us & our Heirs forever—Insurance cannot be effected on her

⁴²For a sketch of Skipwith see Letters for 1790, page 81ⁿ. 138, above.

at this place on any terms, & if it could, the Underwriters have Sustained or are like to Sustain such heavy losses that it is extremely doubtful whether it would be worth while to * ma[ke it, sic]

I am also fearful that the Russel, if [sic] She escape the Algeriens, will be lost in the Same way for it seems to me quite probable that Great Britain has before this day declared War against us—her intention to do so is so apparent to Congress that they yesterday laid an Embargo on all the Vessels (Coasting & fishing Vessels excepted) in the ports & Harbours of the United States, for the term of thirty Days—And have been all this day debating on a Resolution offer'd by Mr Dayton⁴³ for sequestering all the Debts due from Citizens of the United States to British Subjects, which has a very fair Chance for adoption—

Should it be adopted I presume the President will be directed to send an Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of London to explain the intention [2] of it & propose an amicable settlement of Acc^{ts}. & differences—It is whisper'd that if such a power should be given to him he will Send Rufus King⁴⁴ & if I thought he would I should wish to withhold the power.—Goods have risen here, in consequence of the Embargo, 15 P Cent on an average; & it is expected they will rise much higher.—Many Vessels were stopped by the Embargo that had cleared out & got some distance down the River; but happily the French Ships (two in number) loaded with between 7 & 10,000 Barrels flour escaped—a Select Committee appointed to report a plan for rendering the force of the Nation most effectual, have reported a Resolution purporting that the President should be impow'ed to call upon the Legislatures of the [di]fferent States to be ready to turn out their res[pe]ctive quotas of 80,000 Militia on the shortest Notice—The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury was, as I supposed, unfavorable to the Representation of the Cap^{ts}. Pilots, Merchants, &c. Mariners on the subject of the Beacon (I mean as to the place of fixing it)—but when the Bill for the purpose that originated in the Senate is read in our House, I Shall strive to serve them. I find that a Head for your Ship will cost between 30 & 50 Dollars & that heads are not now so generally used here as formerly, & have there fore, with the advise of Mr. Barr, declined getting one till I hear further from you—he recommends a Knee or

*Manuscript is illegible.

⁴³Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey, speaker of the House of Representatives.

⁴⁴The cause of Blount's denouncement of Rufus King is not explained, but was probably on partisan grounds.

what is called a fiddle head—the Hawse holes will cost 9^d. P^t. which Mr Barr thinks are not more necessary than lead for the top of the Taffle [tafferel or taffrail]—I have not yet ordered either but both may be had on very short Notice [3] if you Say the word—I will send my oath concerning the Brig Bell by next post—I have not yet been able to go to Delaware or gain any information concerning that Business—My opinion of Carthy's offer is that it will do—the Bill for fortifying the ports having passed I shall lay your Sketch of the Islands before the President—Remember me to all friends & your family

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Free Tho. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Washington

N^o. Carolina

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. March [n.d.] 1794

Dear Sir

From a multiplicity of business of different kinds which presented immediately on my Arrival I have heretofore been unable to obtain certain information on the different Subjects you requested me but hope now to be fully prepared both as to the mercantile houses in Europe with whom Jackson & Evans deals and also as to Certificates.

In answer to the first I inclose you a Copy of M^r. Evens information given me in writing.

To the Second, I did not see M^cKensie in Petersburg as expected—since my arrival here I have been on several Contracts but have determined on none—The prices previous to this day are from 22/6 to 26/. on the face (every speculator here has been notified of the Law before my Arrival by Post from M^r. Hogg.)—or 15/. on Principal and Interest,—To day I have information from New York of 3000 £ of which a large Proportion is Interest Certificates issued by J Haywood at 11/. on the face I have requested further information on that head as to the particular quantity of each kind, of which I may probably be able to advise you before sealing this—If I should not,

and one half of the Am^t. is Principal Indents I will purchase and forward to you as many as you can dispose of to advantage⁴⁵

[2]

Col^o. Blount has consulted me on the subject of you letter respecting the business in Europe, and altho You may rely on my readiness to embark at a very short notice yet I must assure you of my doubts whether it might not be advisable to delay it for a time.

Prospects of Peace with Brittain at this day appear no ways flattering to the Merchant—Communications from Mr. Pinckney to the President being confidential are not made public[,] Representations of our Situation with Spain are also private, the Galleries daily cleared for the discussion of those subjects—the March of Gen^l Clarke from Kentuckey with 2000 Men under French Commissions against Orleans together with my observations on the Conversation of Men who are or pretend to be in the Cabinet Secrets induce me to judge that we will before the middle of Summer be involved in War with Spain and of Consequence with Britain. If my Opinion is well founded, of which perhaps Col^o. Blount may find himself at Liberty to inform you from better authority, I submit to your judgment whether a postponement for some time would not be adviseable Perhaps even to next Spring, by this time I would be enabled to enlarge my Capital and make it an object better worth the Attempt

[3] I also inclose you a few inquiries I have made as to Coffee[.] Mr. Blount informs me you are about purchasing and wish to Ship—they are done with a View to your advantage. I do not know how far they may succeed.

Thus far has been shewn Mr. [Thomas, sic] Blount as it has been written at his requisition as he suppose

Now in answer to your letter I mean that which concerns the purchase of the Coffee. I hold myself in readiness to answer your bills at all times for the Am^t. you mention or double that sum or even as much as I can raise but Sir I am afraid the Sale is done James & Shoemaker have ordered the Cargo to this place for Sale and have been consulting who in that place can be had for Securities for the duties I propose seeing them to morrow if

⁴⁵Allison was speculating on certificates, probably on the prospect of the redemption of many of them through the allowance to those land owners who had to surrender claims which lay within the land reserved for the Indians. While there was little prospect for receiving payment for the land surrendered, there was hope for the recovery of actual expenses of surveying, establishing the claim, etc.

I can bring on the Conversation without Suspicion I will endeavour to deter them from reshiping the Coffee for this place⁴⁶—Doctor Williamson has been with them to day, he is prying and enquiring at Col^o. Clount to know on whom here you depend for the money he has also been at [James] Barr on the same subject—I think with all his knowledge he cant find out Mr. Blount told him he could not tell unless you depended on him that you refered in your last letter for the Arrangements to a former one which had not come to hand—There is a great Stir about This letter and I believe neither the letter nor drawee can easily be found [4]

I approve highly of every preparation being made for The European business, but am still more and more convinced of the Propriety of postponing it a few months if not for a Season, until we find the event of the Western Expedition against Orleans

Another reason for the delay in my View is—The land business is bro^t forward, submitted to a Committee, reported on favorably and will be before the house in a few days if it passes, I wish to be permitted to be in this Country I am convinced a great share of my future prospects may be completed this Summer and I may go better into the other business I count much on this Speculation—50,000 dol^s. is preparing for me which I can hold and make the pay^t on Goods I am convinced I can secure a sufficient quantity of Lands with Goods to amount to a much greater sum and I am to be one third interested in the profits of the purchase computed my share at 13,000 dollars, a sum not to be trifled with—This money will also enable me to obtain a large quantity on Credit for my own concern perhaps near as much as for the money—If my arrangements are well made and I think I have counted fairly I calculate my profits at 100,000 dollars, a sum which will put me on a level with my Neighbours in trade.—

I am Sir with respect

Your obedient Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Mr. Evens statement of the European houses cant be sent until next Posts—

[No address]

⁴⁶John Gray Blount seems to have planned a speculation in coffee, which he apparently expected to obtain from a stranded vessel. The hazards of shipping to the West Indies at this time offered prospects for good profit on coffee already in the United States.

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA, 3^d. April 1794at B M^cCabes, Corner of Spruce & 5th Streets

Dear Sir

By last Post I forwarded you a Number of Certificates for the purpose which was contained in my letter accompanying the Same, in which I requested you to make arrangements for others which I could also procure, and write me to what Am^t. you could appropriate—Since Writing at that time I have procured between 2 & 3,000 pounds which I am to receive tomorrow morning perhaps I may be able to give you the exact amount before the Post sets off—Altho' I have requested that you make arrangements for an Appropriation yet I wish those to be such as will produce the Cash speedily, if such cant be had I am of the Opinion they had better be kept as I am well assured a general Assumption will take place in that Case one dollar in each pound will be cleared and the money always ready at Command.

I have made Considerable Arrangements in this place for Goods under an impression that a War will take place this Summer or that all Intercourse with Britain will be prohibited until reparation is made for the Captures of our Vessels in the West Indies and elsewhere and a surrender of the Western Posts—In either Case, our plan cant be carried into Operation by which I would be Idle [2] This Summer and Goods will be in great demand—The am^t. of my purchase is calculated at about 10,000 pounds—What the Event of this purchase may be, time only will determine. I have sanguine hopes, from the prospects now before us, but at all Events I cant loose any thing but my time for I can sell them at Auction for what I gave.

By [papers, sic] from the Territory rec^d. this day I am informed that Governor Blount is to meet M^{rs}. Blount at Salem on the 1st. May where he expect to see you.

I have a letter this day from Col^o. [Abishai C.] Thomas dated 25th. Ult^o. at Salisbury, he is gone on to Georgia to Visit his Father & Mother there and will not be with me before 15th May he expects to meet the Gov^r at Salem—he has forwarded me an Extract of Davidsons Will which I hope will answer my purpose.

In your last to Col^o Blount you mention not having rec^d. a letter for Several Posts from either of us, I am surprised at this,

as he has written every post and I have missed only two since I came.

I can collect nothing from James & Shoemaker [as to] what they propose doing [about the coffee, *sic*]

I am D^r. Sir with great Respect

Your Obedient Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 3^d. April 1794

Dear Sir,

You say in your Letter of the 15th Ult^o. that you had not rec^d. a Letter from me by either of the two last posts at which I am surprised for sure it is that I have written you by every post since your return from Fayetteville—& with the first of the two lost Letters was a Letter from D^d. Allison containing the information you wanted on the subject of Coffee &^c.—Inclosed I send you my oath concerning the Brig. Bell—Cap^t. Digges has not yet made his appearance here or been heard of—Should he come, I shall not fail to present your order & apply to the money I may receive in the manner directed—Nail rod is plenty & may be had at any house

I cannot but feel great anxiety for the safety of the Bell; but for two Reasons I have declined having her insured—the first is, it cannot be done for less than 15 P Cent out & 25 back & there is some doubt whether in case of loss the Underwriters would be able & willing to pay the second is, the British, in consequen[ce] of many sound Drubbings given by our friends to the combined Armies, have rela[xed] a little as you will see by their additiona[1] Instructions to their Ships of War & privateers of the 8th Jan^y. contained in the inclosed Paper—The arrival of these Instructions induced a suspension of the Resolution [2] for the Sequestration of British Debts which was under Debate When I last wrote you—It however still appears to me proper that it should pass & I am not without a hope that it will

be revived & passed—a Resolution for authorizing the President to issue Letters of Marque & Reprisal against the Algerines— & a Resolution for prohibiting all Commercial intercourse with great Britain until She shall have made compensation for damages done us by her Ships of War & privateers in contravention of the Laws of Nations, & surrender'd our posts, were laid on the Table yesterday. what their fate will be I cannot guess—neither of the Subjects has yet been discussed. Our Secret Deliberations which have so much alarmed the public mind & induced some people to fear that we have a Disposition for War, were confined to the Subject of Defensive Measures—beyond which we have neither gone nor intended to go—for I can assure you that Congress are more afraid of War, than the people appear to be—[N]°Carolina's quota of the 80,000 Militia which it has been proposed to authorize the President to require of the Executives of the several States to organize & hold in readiness to act on the Shortest Notice, is 7,331—

The President informed me this Evening that he had appointed an Engineer to view the places he has directed by Law to fortify [3] in N°. Caro°. & that he started on his journey or rather passage, yesterday with a Letter to the Governor on the subject of his Business & to him therefore it will be proper for you, to make known your wish concerning Rymer's rock—finding that an actual Survey was to be made I did not think it necessary to trouble the President with the Draught you sent me of the Inlet—The Bill for erecting a Light House & Beacon has not yet been taken up in the H°. of Representatives & the Senators have told me they will agree to any alteration I may make in it so that I am not without hope of getting the Beacon placed near Shell castle on some one of our Islands—I am getting well but have been so engaged in Business for 2 or 3 Days past that I have not had time to write to my friends or any of them but poor Dick Blackledge on the Subject of his Leather which he is not like to get paid for—the afternoon of this Day has been spoil'd by Dining with the President⁴⁷—Remember me to your family & all friends—

THO. BLOUNT

Yours &c.

[No address]

⁴⁷The Blounts were originally strong supporters of President Washington. This attitude began to change as he became more attached to the Federalists. The expression of Thomas Blount supports this statement.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 25th. April 1794

Dear Sir

The President of the United States has nominated and with the Consent of the Senate appointed M^r Chief Justice Jay Envoy extraordinary to the Court of Great Britain—We hope for the purpose of demanding with Spirit and insisting on with firmness full and complete Reparation for all the Spoliations committed by that Nation on our Commerce and an immediate surrender of our Posts—but I confess to you the appointment was made under Circumstances that do not authorize us to judge so favorably of the Object of his Mission and of course it has not given general Satisfaction.

The inclosed Bill to suspend the importation of certain Goods Wares and Merchandize has been twice read in the house of Representatives where it originated and will pass a third time to day but it is feared it will not pass in the Senate It was intended to convince Great Britain of the pacific disposition of this Country and Shew her what is to be the consequence of a refusal on her part to do justice. The Principles of it were agreed to previous to the Nomination of an Envoy extraordinary and at a time when it was not imagined by the house of Representatives that such an Appointment would be deemed expedient.

A Bill directing a Detachment of 80,000 Militia from the different States in proportion to their respective number [2] of white Inhabitants and a Bill providing for raising and organizing a Corps of Artilleries and Engineers to garrison the Forts to be erected for the Security of our Sea ports and Harbours, passed the house of Representatives on Wednesday last.

The Post office bill which establishes a postroad from Tarboro^g. through Greenville, to Washington has passed both houses but has not yet rec^d. the Signature of the President.

The Report of our Committee of Ways and Means of which I inclose you a Copy is now under Consideration and as it contemplates a Variety of new Taxes and involves some important Constitutional Questions will probably take up much Time That is the most important Business that now remains to be done this session which it is believed cannot terminate before the 1st. June.

This letter and the papers that accompany it you are requested to shew and read to your Neighbours, to whom I beg you to present my best Respects & am

very respectfully

Your M^o. Ob^t.

[No address]

THO. BLOUNT

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. May 1st. 1794

D^r. Sir

Your letter of the 11th. Ult^o. Was handed me some days past inclosing a Bill on Joseph Smith Kings Agent at Whitehall London for £66.16.5 Sterl^g.—I have done nothing with it as yet therefore have not applied for Indorsement—It also gives me notice of your drawing on me for 500 dollars at sixty days sight, the bill has been presented and paid agreeable to your request.

A few days past I entered into agreement to pay the purchase money of 500,000 Acres of Land lying in your State into the Entry takers Office of some of the Counties The sum is large and will embarass me much unless Certificates will be received in payment which I request you to endeavour to know and write me with all possible haste If Certificates will not do then I wish you to negotiate them for Paper money to the amount of £9000 being the purchase money of the aforesaid Quantity and apply as many of those you have on hand to that use[.] the balance I will secure here and bring on before they are wanted and replace such as you may take from the [2] Bundle heretofore sent you

I hope you will loose no opportunity in making such advantageous Arrangments on that head as you may find in your power and know at least if Certificates will not pay the Entry money nor cant be exchanged for Paper, I say know where it can be had for Gold or Silver to the Amount.

The Contract binds that the land is to be granted in my Name and held as a pledge for the repayment of the purchase money & that the remainder be equally divided between myself and Geo. Ogg⁴⁸—I consider this a very Advantageous Speculation—I am now in Treaty with M^r [Robert] Morris & [George] Nicolson

⁴⁸The contract with George Ogg was to give the Blounts and Blackledge much trouble later. David Allison also came in for his share of displeasure with Ogg.

for the Sale thereof and hope in a few days to be able to give you a Satisfactory Account of that Business and that I have not only my money returned but the handsome profit thereon of 12,000 at the least and perhaps much more as I have flattered myself to get 2/. Pr. Acre that is one quarter dollar

I am Sir with Sentiments of respect

Your Obedient Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. May 9th. 1794

Dear Sir

In a publication in the North Carolina Journal I find the opinion of the Treasurer relative to Certificates being rec^d. in several Payments which operate immediately against my project of paying the Entry money for the Land in that Way Therefore recourse must be had to Cash—To effect the raising so large a Sum I have to request that you forelay all the paper money in your neighbourhood Tarboro^g. Newbern & else Where to the Am^t. for which you may draw bills on me at 60 or 90 Days the latter would be prefered but in this you must agree with the holder—

I hope you have had an agreeable meeting with Governor Blount and that you can inform me how business goes on to the Westward⁴⁹

Please tender my Respects to M^{rs}. Blount & the Major

I am Sir

with Sentiements of Esteem

Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

P. S. I have not yet made any sale of the lands tho' I have prospects that way I am now settling the Copartnership about the

⁴⁹William and John Gray Blount had met in Salem (North Carolina) shortly prior to this.

Lead mines⁵⁰ with Morris & Nicolson with whom I have had some Conversation relative to land—

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 16th May 1794

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is a Letter from Doct^r. Jn^o. Hall which incloses a post Note for 1000 Dol^{rs}. I hope it will come timely to hand—A Motion for continuing the Embargo was on Monday last negatived in the H^s. of Representatives by an almost unanimous vote—Not because the reason for laying it was taken away, or in the smallest degree diminished, but because the French Minister declared in confidence to the Republican part of Congress that a continuance of it would be worse in effect to the cause of Liberty than a Declaration of War against the French Republic, as it was impossible, owing to this disposition of Congress & particularly the Senate, to give them an opportunity in any other way of drawing from us Supplies of provision which it is feared they [2] are at this time in great danger of wanting. In consequence of this Vote I yesterday laid on the Table a motion for prohibiting until compensation shall be made us by the Gov^t. of G. Britain for all Spoliations &^c all commercéal intercourse between the United States, & the British W I. Islands & Colonies in America—What the fate of this motion will be I cannot inform you—I have some hope that it will pass in the H^s. of R. but am afraid it will perish in the Senate.—Coffee has risen 2^d. in the lb—Flour upwards of one Doll^r. P Bll. You may now calculate on getting here 18^d. for Coffee & I would advise you to send it on if you have need of money[.] Hall has assured me he will pay me the Balance of your order previous to my departure for Caro^a. say about 1 June—Give Notice to my Constituents [3] far & near that it is probable the Embargo will not be continued after the 25th Inst. I pray take no advantage of getting the information first—The land Tax proposed by the Committee of

⁵⁰These were probably the lead mines to which William Blount referred to in his letter to John Gray Blount on May 26, 1794. See letter, page 396, below.

ways & means is rejected—but Stamps & other obnoxious taxes cannot be got rid of—VanNoordens brig with 1 Ton nail & 1 Ton Spike rod—2 Bll^s flour, One for you the other for myself—the Hawse holes & Wine will Sail this day—2000^{lb} of the coffee She bro^t. was damaged & the owner [of the vessel, *sic*] is sentenced to pay for it which takes more than all the freight—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

[4] P. S. Besides the articles already mentioned I send you by M^r Van Noorden's brig 2 Boxes China, one for Sharpe the other for myself—a Barrel con^g. loaf Sugar for myself (8 loaves) a long paper package cont^g. Maps for Blake Baker, & a large square Trunk, containing, besides a great many small articles for myself & my friends at Tarb^o., a Saddle & Bridle for the Major & 4^{lb}. Tea, a Stand Cruits, a Tea Tray & a Gown pattern of Silk for Polly [Mrs. John Gray Blount]—the Silk is in a p^s. of 18 y^{ds}. she will take of it what She wants & Send the rest to M^{rs}. Harvey the price of it is 1 2/3 Doll^s. P Y^d. there are two Stand of Cruits—yours is the smalles & plainest marked B. be careful that in unpacking the Trunk to get what is yours, you do not break the glasses which are rolled in paper & laid in different parts of the Trunk—

[No address]

Thomas H. Blount⁵¹ to John Gray Blount

WARRENTON May 20th. 1794.

Dear Father

I arrived here after a Journey of 3 days ½—and was much Fatigue'd when I got here. M^r. William Richards one Of M^r. George's Ushures says my Books are Very good Books, he boards at the house that I do. And, I think M^r. Green the Man that I board with is a very good Man. I began School this Morning and began In figures[.] I get My Lessons in the English grammar. M^r. Richards Rites [writes] very well and I think I shall learn Faster here than I Should at Washington. They People up here is very healthy, And I hope I shal be so. As M^r. [Marcus] George always gives the Boys one Month in every Year, I hope

⁵¹Thomas H. Blount, the son of John Gray, was being sent to a school in Warrenton, North Carolina, kept by Marcus George. For comment on George see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 402.

you will please send a Horse for me the first of October for me to come down— Mr. Freeman does not live in town and really do not Know How he can [get] his letter; but I shall try for him to get it.

I am Your Son

THOMAS H. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 22^d. May 1794

Dear Sir

In each of my two last Letters, which went by the two last posts, I sent you Post Notes from Doct. Hall for one thousand Dollars which I hope you have rec^d.—and I have now the pleasure to inclose to you a Bill for erecting a Light House on the Head Lane of Cape Hatteras & a lighted Beacon on Shell Castle Island—in order that if there should be an extra Assembly you may make a Cession of the Land, which must be made before the work can be done.

Coffee is now worth 18^d. P^{ct}. here in Cash—but other articles of our produce are still low & will probably continue so.—I told you in my last that a motion for continuing the Embargo was lost & the reason—& I now tell you that the Embargo will not be Cont^d. & that I am sorry for it because I am sure the Interests of Our Country require that it should be—It is said that our Coast is lined with privateers (English) & that they plunder even our coasting Vessels but whether this is true or not I cannot say—for an account of it I refer you to the inclosed paper—I also inclose to you a Letter from Cap. Gorham dated at Antiqua 24th Ap^r. & a Letter from J. C. Mountflorencia dated in Switzerland 23^d. Dec^r. 1793 of which I send a Copy to W. Blount (I should have said the Duplicate for I rec^d. two of the same tenor & Date—) It is said, & I believe truly, that Col^o. Simcoe, with 3 Companies of Col. Englands' Reg^t of British Infantry has gone down to the foot [2] of the Miami Rapids to erect a fort there—and comparing this with the former Conduct of the British in that quarter & on the high Sea within the last 12 Months I think it

reasonable to conclude that, notwithstanding We have sent an Envoy to England, we are in great danger of getting into the War in the course of the Summer. If Wayne can get to Simcoe I imagine he will not wait for orders to attempt to drive him off of our Territory, I mean if it should be true that Simcoe is at the Miami Rapids—Congress have resolved to adjourn on the 3^d. June to meet again the first Monday in November & on the 2^d. Day after the adjournment I shall start for Tarb°. where I expect to arrive between the 20th & 25th—I shall go the whole way by Land in a Phaton with David Allison who is coming to visit you on Business—I have said nothing yet about a head for the new Vessel & therefore it will be proper for you to signify your wish on that subject to Mr Barr, if you determine to have one, by the next post after receiving this—I have not recommended any of your proposed off^{rs}. for the Fort because all the forts are to be garrisoned by Troops from the Corps of artillerists & Engineers we have raised in which I supposed they would not like to Serve—Remember me to all—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

[No address]

John Armistead to John Gray Blount

PLYMOUTH May 22^d. 1794

Mr Jn° G Blount

Dear Sir

Mr John White the barrer here of is a young Gentleman of my acquaintance who has a mind to take a turn to Jamaica in a brig^t That he has loaded for that place with a valuable Cargo—& as he has no acquaintance there I beg leave to request the fav^r. of you to give him an introduction to some of your Correspondants if you please as I have none There of my own

With grat respect I remain your's &c.

JN° ARMISTEAD

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Merch^t.

Washington

Hon^d by)

Mr. White)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE May 26th 1794

Dear Sir,

I arrived here safe on the 19th with my family.—M^r. [Bryan] M^c.Cabe overtook me at Abingdon in Virginia express from M^r. Allison and travelled with me to Cap^t. Ames where he was taken with the Small Pox—There I left him and have not heard from him since—M^r. [Augustus, *sic*] Harvey who was on the Mend stayed with him.—M^r. Rickard as a Physician is gone up to M^r. M^c.Cabe. Bertie is here on the Mend well pleased with the Country.—The Frontier People upon the Indians Killing Casteel & family (the family I mentioned to you at the Moravian Town) have gone all wrong and have not yet got wright.—[Stockley] Donadlson & others are now engaged in plotting out the Lands granted to Jo. Green and others within the Big Survey of J. G. & T. B. [John Gray & Thomas Blount] which will be completed in the Course of this Week and on this day Week M^r. Grant⁵² heretofore of Hillsboro^s. will leave this for Philadelphia with an accurate Map of it & the adjacent Country there to appear as [2] the Proprietor of it and if possible under the Direction of M^r. Allison to sell it for the most obtainable (I hope 100'000 dollars).—You will please embrace the earliest Opportunity to inform M^r. Allison whether you have purchased Green's lands or not that he may know how to instruct M^r. Grant in his Sale.—I believe I shall be able to purchase out all the Proprietors in this Country at 1/3 of a dollar per acre or in exchange for land Warrants except about 10'000 Acres in which quantity is included the 5000 Acre Tract sold John O'Donnall of Baltimore—O'Donnall has accepted the Bill.—The Price to him was 2/3 Virginia Mony.—

Since my Return I have caused to be surveyed 4000 Acres adjoining the lead Mine Tract begining within ¼ of a Mile of the Furnace[,] the Works whereof will be forwarded in a few days to the Secretary's office by James Woods Lackey by whom I shall write you and instruct him to forward your letter to you express from the Secretary's office— This Tract with an accurate Map of it & the lead Mine Tract will also be in M^r. Grant's Hands for sale.—And I believe [3] he will have M[oo]re's, *sic* &

⁵²James Grant. William Blount to John Gray Blount, Knoxville, July 18, 1794, page 416, below.

other Tracts well described—. I am happy to hear that Col. Thomas succeeded so well in the Business he went on to Salisbury. —I am &c &c

W^m. BLOUNT

J. G. Blount

General Robertson will be here tomorrow with OPoiamingo & 16 other Chickasaws on their way to Philadelphia—100 Chickasaws & Chactaws have passed NashVile to join General Wayne unsolicited by the U. S.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

M^r. Philips
Care of M^r. Harvey Tarbor

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH May 28th. 1794

M^r John Blount

Sir I Rec^d. yours Esteemed of the 25 Current I do not wish to sell the Naval Stores at the price going here I should be glad to Exchange Tar & pitch for Turpentine and woud freely give you an advanced freigh for the Brig to go to Holland, I think they might perhaps be changed with [John, sic] Simpson if this can be done send up express I will pay the cost, I am now sending down my Tarr and hope to have it in good order, and expect to stand to the agreement made when I & M^r [Amos] Johnson was down—if not agreeable to go to Holland please to have my Tar & Turpentine which—is in the care of Simpson Coopered & put in Shiping order I shall count on loading one half or at least one third of the New Vessel⁵³ and hope you will not disappoint me

I am D^r Sir

Yo mo Ob^t.

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: M^r. John G Blount
By M^r. Brenan)

⁵³This was the *Tuley*. It was referred to as a vessel with an ill-fitting head.

*Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. 28th May 1794D^r Sir

I arriv'd here three days since, sent your Horse back from Petersburg with thanks &c. & I hope he is safe home by this time,—And now suffer me to ask you, How could you leave Hillsboro^g and suffer me to find myself there in such a disagreeable dilemma as you must have known your carrying off the Certificates would place me?—You well knew the purport of the Letter to Alexander, you knew besides, that I was authorized to say to him that the Certificates were at Hillsboro^g. and that I would pay them in & inclose him the Treasurer's receipt, figure to yourself then what must have been the situation of my [2] my feelings when arriving at Hillsboro^g. I found you had carried all off, indeed M^r. Blount this was making a dupe of me from a quarter I did not expect—After having at a great risque as to my public functions undertaken that business & the other of Davidson's, after having compleated both to my most sanguine expectations & returning with triumphant satisfaction, to find I had been only made a tool of for speculative purposes, was what I could not Brook. I ought to have known something of the matter to have prevented me from pledging myself to a downright falsehood, *the business might have been done without*—Your Letter to M^r. Haywood dated 6 miles from Washington did not arrive until I had left Hillsboro^g. and he knowing, or at least believing my [3] mind must be considerably agitated, had the goodness to enclose the Letter to me at M^r. Benchans by express after night, this Letter althought it might answer the purpose of quieting the mind of Alexander & in some measure release me, yet it did not alter my opinion as to the views in carrying off the Certificates, and I am now confirmed in that opinion, Q. E. D. After all I have arrived in time to [do, sic] the business of the State as well as if I [had] remained here during the whole of the Session

Please make my best compliments to Mrs. Blount to Reading
& Lucy &c

Yours

AC. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}.
Washington
N^o. Carolina
Mr. Jordan)

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. May 29th. 1794

D^r Sir

Your letter of the 10th. May 1794 addressed to Col^o. Thomas Blount came safe to hand in which I find the manner you propose distributing the Certificates forwarded you and can assure you from my present Idea of that business I consider it, as a Wild Goose Chase, in every part—in this manner I View the several Plans contemplated, first then the payment of Governors [William Blount] Debt to the State—it is now dependent on the determination of a *Rascally Court* and perhaps a Jury equally so, for fear of their bad and unjust determination *it is to be paid* and nothing can ever be had from the Actual debtor, the payment now made, suppose the Court and Jury determined justly and discharge him of the debt the Am^t. is lost forever if they determine against him and the Certificates sold at Par, they will discharge the debt as well after Judgment as before, in the first case you risque all and loose all let the Judgment be as it may, in the last there is neither risque nor loss—I am therefore opposed to the Measure and advise you to sell so much of them as will cover [2] the Debt which we will hold sacred to the final decision on that business is known—

Your Second Object is to barter Certificates for Negroes—on this I think as before, *it is a bad plan*, taking into Idea the price of Negroes, the Expense and Risque perhaps not get Cash again for them, trade them or Credit them—I am convinced a sale of the Certificates on a short Credit with good security and Interest from the date is far preferable and will be more likely to put me again in Cash in due season, but I submit as I suppose you had reasons which you have not communicated

to me and the Governor has not written me since before he set out for Salem.

You observe that you expect to sell from 4 to 5000 £ at 20/. on principal and Interest I wish you could extend that sale to double the Amount, on a Credit 6.9 or 12 M°. *conditionally* with Interest from the date and good security—I expect to set out for Washington next Week with from 8 to 1000 £ but for these I must have Returns or I shall be in debt for them

I have before communicated my business to Washington I must pay 9000 £ paper money, I want all you can raise and collect, bills on Phil^a. will be given on S[sic]. Jackson at 60 Days or as much longer as you can get Credit, and Cash if nothing better will do this is [3] in payment of 500,000 Acres of Land for G. Ogg—I am now in treaty for the sale and hope to effect it, the Nett am^t. of my proposals to Morris and Nicolson is £150,000 P. Money I have not yet had their Answer but expect it in a few days—the large Grant is not included I have that for another time and my expectation are sanguine now,—I am interested with them in the Lead Mines, of which the Governor I make no doubt has informed you and my reasons, as you may easily see from the Proposals mentioned above—

You say give Dr Hall 10 P^rC^t. for selling but sir I would not do this if it should remain unsold for a time * [It is e]qual to a *War insurance*[.] Policies of that sort would destroy the profits—

You mention that a Mem^o. of Governor Blounts respecting the Land is enclosed I have never seen it I suppose you have mislaid or not inclosed it In expectation of aid from you in Cash I shall go on with haste after the rise of Congress, so that the Certificates I may have with me can go to Hillsboro^g. before the 1st. July

I am Sir Your Ob^t. Serv^t. DAVID ALLISON

by the word Conditionally I mean if they can be got to the Treasury in time—[4] P. S. Would it not be adviseable to write the Treasurer that you propose making payments for a number of your Neighbours and friends for this purpose you have ordered All your Certificates which had been sent to Philadelphia, to be forwarded to his Office and that as soon as you knew the Am^t. of them you would give him notice to whose Credit they were to be placed

[No address]

D ALLISON

* Manuscript is marred.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 30th May 1794

Dear Sir,

Mr. Barr has favored me with the inclosed prices Current from which I persuade myself you will think it adviseable to send the Sloop here with a Cargo—Tar & Rosin which I suppose you can at any time command, will answer very well—it will also be an object perhaps to Send your Coffee here that Article is now worth 18^d P^{lb} a head for the Tooley cannot be done in less than 3 or four weeks however I have, in consequence of your Success in getting the Russell back on such good Terms order'd it & the price will be tween 30 & 40 Dollars—the Embargo was not renewed for the reason I stated to you in my last & on the day after it expired upwards of 70 Sail of Vessels sailed from this port chiefly for the West Indies which I already consider lost for Great Britain is at this time more openly hostile towards us than she was before the Embargo was laid—Gen^l. Simcoe has gone with 3 Companies of British Infantry to the fort of the Miami Rapids for the avowed purpose of erecting a Fort there Which Mr. Hammond⁵⁴ seems more willing to justify than explain, & under these circumstances our Hope of avoiding War seems to rest wholly on the existing State of Things in Europe which, if it is as favorable to France as our last accounts from there indicate, may & probably will dispose the British King & Court to accede to the proposition of our Envoy who will, it [2] is expected, arrive there at a favorable moment especially if it should be true that the Kings of Prussia & Spain have withdrawn from the general alliance & acknowledged the French Republic as from our latest accounts from Europe we find some reason to infer Gen^l. [Gouverneur] Morris is recalled from France & Col. [James] Munro of the Senate from the State of Virg^a. appointed to succeed him—Mr. Short is also appointed Successor to Mr. Carmichael at the Court of Madrid⁵⁵—The proposed Land Tax & Stamp duties are rejected but all other Taxes & Duties proposed by the Committee of Ways & means (some of which involve important Constitutional questions) are in a fair way to be adopted—There is before the

⁵⁴George Hammond, the first English minister to the United States. He became so committed to Alexander Hamilton's views that the influence of his ministry was somewhat restricted.

⁵⁵William Carmichael. See Letters for 1791-1792, page 180*n*. 35, above. William Short who succeeded him also had an interesting political career. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII (1935), 128-129.

H^s. of Representatives a Bill sent from the Senate for authorizing the President in the recess of Congress to raise, on the terms of the present Military Establishment Such number of Troops not exceeding 10,000 as may in his Judgment be necessary—But I hope as we [are] in no danger, of being invaded by a force superior to our 80,000 Militia, if at all, it will be rejected by a large Majority—If it is not I shall really be ashamed to come home for such a force at this time can only be intended to awe our own Citizens into obedience to unconstitutional Laws—Expect me at home by the 25th June—Shew this Letter & believe

me

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Free, Tho. Blount

Addressed:

Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

N^o. Carolina

John Hall to John Gray Blount

PHILA^d. 5th. June 1794

Mr. John G. Blount

Sir

I have paid your Draft for five thousand dollars—A few days ago I made Sale of the Swamp Land at the rate of two hundred Dollars p^r. M Acres; this price will answer very well, the payments are in 4 enStallments, the Longest 22 months—A Small discount on any of them will in this place bring them into Cash—The agreement is Written & to be Signed to [2] day—I endeavoured to include the 100. M Acres piece but without Effect—I wish you would engross all the Swamp in North Carolina—a little Marsh would answer—please advise me immediately in What forwardness are the Surveys—when I may Expect the Grants &c &c—If the grants don't come out in my name please be particular in having the Titles made by An Attorney to me—procure Certificates from your Courts there on no Judgments, Mortgages or Executions against the Person

makeing [3] Titles to me—& if in my name this Certificate will be necessary—I hope this business will on your part be kept a Secret—much depends on it⁵⁶—if I can previously engage a few Hundred thousand Acres of piney Land I will advise you—

I am Sir

Y^r. Mo. Ob. S^t.

J. HALL

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Hon^d.)

Colo. Blount)

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 6th. June 1794

Dear Sir

The act of Congress directing a Detachment from the Militia of the United States having been forwarded to me it becomes necessary that the General Assembly should be convened as early as possible to provide their quota of this State and to fall on some means to have the whole Militia of the State Armed and equiped agreeable to the law of the U. S.—I have accordingly called the Assembly to meet at this place on Monday the 7th. day of July next I enclose you a Copy of the Proclamation for your County members also one to be sent to the Hyde members, & as it is out of the route of the express, I will be much Obligated to you to send it down there to some one of the Members. I wish the notice to be as early and as general as general as possible.—

What sais Tom to you upon the subject of War? I think the letters which passed between Randolph & Hammond on the 20th and 22^d. of May respecting Lord Dorchester's Speech to the Indians, and Col^o. Simcoe's taking post at the rapids of the

⁵⁶The caution to secrecy probably arose from the desire to avoid competition, as well as the displeasure of the local inhabitants who resented the acquisition of extremely large areas by a single individual. See the Presentment of the Grand Jury of Fayette District, October Term, 1794 in Papers for 1790-1795, in this volume, page 654.

Miami, in the face of General Wayne, with a party of British troops, looks more like—hostilities than any thing I have heretofore seen.⁵⁷

I am with Esteem

yours Sincerely

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT

John G. Blount Esq^r.

P. S. I have wrote to the President of the U. S. respecting Beacon Island's being yours & Wallace's property⁵⁸ & that you were willing to sell &c. &c. I wish the first may go on fact.—
R.D.S.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Pr. Express

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 6th June 1794

Dear Sir

The head of the Tooley will be finished in 14 days I hope in time to go home by the Vessel you are sending or have sent but it will be a female one & therefore the Vessel whether Ship or Brig should have a female name & I have half a mind to propose that it should be *Rebecca*⁵⁹—the adjournment which was to have taken place the 3^d. In^t. will not take place 'till Monday next but as I shall start the day after I still expect to get home by the 25th—Allison will accompany me & furnish me with a Seat in his Phaeton. J. [John] Hall has paid your draft for 5'000 Dollars &, except the 2000 sent you in post Notes, I shall bring the Money—Schenck has informed me that the Bell arrived on the 20th Ult^o. & therefore I expect you have sent some Rum

⁵⁷Lord Dorchester was accused of arousing the Indians to make war on the frontier settlers (Adams, *Dictionary of American History*, III, 389-390.) If the settlers withdrew, the English might strengthen their position in the territory vacated. J. G. Simcoe, governor of Upper Canada, built Miami Fort on the Maumee River in Ohio. This action was protested by Washington and Jefferson, but John Jay recognized the fort in the Jay Treaty. It was finally taken over by the United States in the War of 1812.

⁵⁸The Blounts and Wallace were anxious for the Federal government to purchase their property, Beacon Island, for use in its plan to improve navigation on the North Carolina coast. For the location of the Island, see "Map of Ocracoke," *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 453.

⁵⁹The cause of the reference to the name Rebecca and John Gray's quick anger about it must be left to the reader's own conjectures. No further reference or explanation has been found. See Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, Tarborough, June 25, 1794, page 410, below, for comments on the head of the *Tooley*.

[2] which I am told will find a good Market—The Captains of the 6 frigates are appointed—they are—1. Barry⁶⁰—2^d. Nicolson⁶¹—3^d. [Silas] Talbot amember of Congress from New York—4th. Barney—5th. [Richard] Dale & 6th [Thomas] Truxton—The King of Prussia has certainly withdrawn from the alliance & it is expected that a general peace will soon be a consequence of his Secession—affairs in France go on well but Danton is accused if not Guillotined—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington
N^o. Carolina

*John Gray & Thomas Blount to Thomas & John Ketland*⁶²

Copy

PHIL^a. June 10th 1794

Gentlemen,

Since conversing with you this Morning we have agreed to Charter you our New Brig Tooley Cap^t. Smith from Liverpool or London back to this Port for Four hundred & twenty five pounds Sterling giving you all the privileges of Cabin, Steerage & primage & thirty working Days for the taking in of her Cargo, presuming should there be room for more Goods than you are disposed to put on board for your own account you will give our friends a preference charging them same freight as you do others—The Amount of Vessels freight after deducting the amount of Premium on the Insurance wrote for to your House in London, We wish appropriated to the purchase of Goods as P^r annexed Memorandum to be Shipped P return of

⁶⁰John Barry was an Irish-born American naval officer. He achieved recognition during the Revolutionary War and was selected (1794) as the commander of the new navy. For this reason he had been called the Father of the American Navy.

⁶¹Samuel Nicolson of Maryland supervised the construction of the *Constitution* of which he was also a commander. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XII (1934), 506-507.

⁶²Thomas Blount said later: "the House of Ketlands [Thomas and John] import more than any other House, perhaps in America—" Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, June 11, 1794, page 406, below.

Vessel freight free—you may rely on our utmost exertions to dispatch the Brig from Carolina soon as possible & we doubt not she will Sail by the 25th July—we remain respectfully

Gentlemen

Yo^r. Ob^t. Serv^t.

JN^o G & THO. BLOUNT

by

THO. BLOUNT

Mess^{rs} Tho. & John Ketland

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. Tho. & Jno. Ketland

Merchants

Philadelphia

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 11th June 1794

Dear Sir,

Insurance could not be had at this place on either the Tooley or the Russel on a voyage to any part of England for less than 15 P Cent out only, if at that; and not chusing to give that or any thing like it I got Mess^{rs}. Tho. & John Ketland to write to their House in London by the Ship Atlantic that sailed from here yesterday, for Insurance on the Tooley from Washington to Liverpool or London & back to a port in the United States South of New York—and my reason for doing this I will now tell you—Mess^{rs}. Ketlands have agreed to give £425 Sterling for the run of the Brig back to this Port to be paid there & except such part thereof as may be required to pay the Premium of Insurance, laid out in Goods according to our order & brought here freight free—and in the Contract I have stipulated that if there should be room in the Vessel for more Goods than they may be disposed to put on board for their own account, ourselves & our friends shall have a preference paying the Common freight—Whether you will think this a good or a bad bargain I am doubtful, for my own part I think it a good one or I should not have made it—& to prove it, I argue that the Vessel will arrive there too late to have any chance for freight not previously [2] engaged; that without a friend on the Spot interested in the Business she would not get much if She could be there

earlier as Vessels that are known & are called constant Traders always have a preference—besides I look forward to future advantages from the acquaintance so formed w^t. the House of Ketlands who import more largely than any other House, perhaps in America—I have engaged that all possible dispatch shall be given to get her away & that if possible She Shall sail by the 25th July—I have therefore to advise that you take a full load for her from A. & J. [Atkinson & Johnston] & that you exert yourself to get her away at any rate in all July—you will see by what I have said that She must go—& I hope you will be pleased with the terms—I have reason to think She will be insured at 10 P Cent out & back—& if she should she must make a good Voyage. Pray use dispatch—her head will be done in ten days & Col. Thomas will send it by the first Vessel to Occa-cock after—Cap^t. [Abner, *sic*] Neale arrived here safe last Evening to a good Market—Congress adjourned on the 9th & I am this moment starting for Tarb^o. with allison—We expect to see you before you receive this—adieu

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Anne Harvey⁶³ to John Gray Blount

BLOUNT HALL June 12th 1794

Dear brother.

Some time ago Coll Thomas' wrote me from Halifax tha[t] he had got a man to bring your Horse to Tarboro & deliver him to me & I was either [to] send him on to you or keep him & send him myself as was Convenient[.] the Horse I have never seen or Heard of[.] I had Siposd as I got the Letter by post. that the man had gone Strait on to you with him till Sharpe [Blount] told me you had not go[t] him—it was a molatto man by name John Burd of Halifax if you have not [got h]im & will let me

⁶³Anne Blount Harvey was undoubtedly a strong, capable woman. Her letter, although showing the lack of a formal education, gives an insight into her business ability. She was included in important social affairs in the State and when members of her family needed her service she was likely to go to them.

know it I will send Jake up after him as soon as I hear from you[.] it slipt my memory or should have told Reading about it—my farm. is in good order & Corn very likely—Edwards is Coming to see you in about a fortnight to know wheather to go on With seting kilns or get timber for to have the Tar burnt [this] fall—I go home tomorrow I am well[.] with Love to Sister Polly & family your

ANNE HARVEY

please send me a bushel of salt for the use of my plantation to GreenVille Sharpe deSires you will send him two bushells by the same oppertunity AH.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH June 17th. 1794

Mr. John G Blount

Sir by the Bearer I send You 150 Barrels of Corn please to take enough to pay my Acc^t. and Store the Remainder, I also send you fifty Barrels Pork Two Barrels & three Kegs of Lard which you will please to Ship to Baltimore by the first Vessel that goes out unto the Address of Mr. Jesse Hollingsworth[.] I also Send you Six Barrels of Beeswax, observe the Beeswax is to be Shipped in the Russel to Liverpool and charge the Ex-pence to Dear Sir Your

Most Ob^t. H^m. Ser^t.

BEN ATKINSON

P S. if Hoopers Vessel is not gone send her to Jesse Hollingsworth at Baltimore, please to send up the OZ^s [Oznaburgs or Oznabrigs] &c by the Bearer

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Merch^t.
Washington

*William Brickell⁶⁴ to John Gray Blount*LOUISB^{gh}. June 24. 1794

Dear Sir.

I find in the National defence our proportion will be about Seven Regiments—my Inclination is the army. might I therefore venture to Solicit your friendship & aid—for the Command of one of these Regiments, while the appointment of Officers is on the carpet. if so I wou'd indeed consider myself under acknowledgements to you. Gurard is also determin'd if he lives for the army & intends to solicit a Regiment. he is now at our Springs & I think mending—but of these circumstances he will write you & the Col^o. y^r. Bro^r. who I hear is Return'd—if you please present my Complim'ts. to him am Glad to hear of his safe return—

—When I last had the pleasure of seeing you—the cultivation of Hemp was spoke off. will you be so oblige^d. in some spare moment to drop me the process of that business, I have secur'd one bushel seed—and intend to put it Ground that will produce about 4 barrells corn to [2] to the m. [measure, sic] I wish you to say how much of such ground is right to a bushel seed—& then the subsequent management.—

I hope sir you'll forgive me this freedom. & if an error 'tis because I feel your friendship & aid (as before) worth Solicitation You wou'd very much oblige me, When convenient to have the Pleasure to hear from you—

I am with sentiments of

Esteem Y^r. most Obed^t. Very Hum^l Serv^t.

WILL BRICKELL

Col. Jn^o G Blount

Addressed: Col. John G. Blount

Washington

Capt. Keais)

⁶⁴William Brickell of Franklin County, North Carolina was one of the commissioners named to found the town of Louisburg, which has retained the name until the present time. He was also a member of the General Assembly of North Carolina. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 303-304.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARB^o. 25th June 1794

I arrived here yesterday & would come down to-morrow to see you, but am obliged to wait the arrival of M^r. Carnes a member from Georgia whom I invited to call on me & who will be here to-morrow—I wrote you from Phil^a. on the day I left it & informed you that I had got Mess^{rs}. Ketlands of that City to write to London for insurance on the new Brig by the Name of Tooley & chartered her to them back from London or Liverpool to Phil^a. for £425 Sterling—and inclosed are the Letters that passed between Mess^{rs}. Ketland & myself on the subject by which you will see the terms fully expressed—I am far from certain that you will like them for I confess that I do not very well like them myself; but I infer'd from your Letter that you had absolutely agreed [2] to send that Vessel or the Russel & considered that the Russel would probably suit best for the West India Trade & therefore as Ketlands made me an offer for the New Brig back supposed it would be agreeable & advantageous to you to send her—freights are now very high in Virg^a. & indeed everywhere else & perhaps, if the Russel is not actually gone to the W. Indies it would be well to take a load of Tob^o. for her at Norfolk for Liverpool to bring back our own & Johnston's & Atkinsons freight—3 Guineas & 5 P C^t. primage have been given P hh^d. & three pounds Sterling may be certainly had with dispatch—Vessels are in very great demand so great, that I do not much doubt but 70/. May be had if the Vessel goes round immediately—You will observe that the Contract I have made is, whether [3] good or bad, a positive one & I therefore hope you will approve of it & use all possible dispatch to get her out in all the Month of July or sooner if possible—her head, or the head that was order'd for her, will probably be to hand in time—I am sorry I did not know the extent of your aversion to Women—but until I rec^d. your Letter P M^r. Clements I did not know that you had any—or the head should have been of the Masculine gender—however there can be no impropriety in giving the name of a man to a Vessel that carries the head of a Woman & I should be glad as the head is purchased that you would put it on her if you can do it without violating your promise, & if you cannot, to save the freight of it here, you may [4] give it away in my name or burn it—for my part I want

nothing that nature has not affixed a head to—When I took the liberty of suggesting a name applicable to the head I felt not a wish on the subject any other name would be as agreeable to me as the one I mentioned—I feel your rebuke more sensibly & disagreeably than I should feel the total loss of the Brig if She was wholly mine; & if there was time to get a mans' head for her She Should have it, if it cost me the price of my Trotters Land—but unfortunately, if She is permitted to go the voyage to Europe, there will not be—herewith I send you a permit from the Spanish Commissioners to send a Vessel in ballast to Porto Rico accompanied by a Letter to the Governor of the Island. there are blanks in it for the names of the Cap^t. & Vessel which you yourself may fill—[5] I also send you a Letter that I found here from M^r Craven containing Copy of W^m Blount's account. I have with me the Balance of your Draft on D^r. John Hall most of which I converted into paper Money at Petersburg at 10/6. to the Dollar which you shall Know my reasons for doing when I see you which Shall be by Sunday or Monday next if I can raise a nag to bring me down—Allison came home with me & is going to Fayette in search of G. Ogg to pay for the Land he has entered—which he is concerned in—Comp^{ts}. to the family—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

turn over

[6] I promised Mess^{rs}. Ketland to furnish them with a Memorandum of such Articles as we would have the freight of the New Brig (I mean the £425) laid out in—immediately after my arrival here—you will therefore please make it out, if you accede to the bargain I have made, send it to them by post.

T. B.

your orders about Stork are complied with & I have the Bill of M^r R. Lake in possession as also our Bonds to P. N. [Pennock & Nicolson] & Skipwith on which I paid the Balance that was due.—

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount
Washington

*John Hall to John Gray Blount*PHILA^d. 26th June 1794

Mr. John G. Blount

Sir.

I advised you Some time ago of the Sales to Mr. [Robert] Morris of the 200 M Acres of Swamp—In a few days He will forward a man to Explore it—if it answers your description the bargain is Confirmed otherwise Null & void—I expect there is no danger of its coming up equal to it—you had better prepare the Gentlemans mind Who is employed to inspect the Land—every thing had better be kept a Secret—no one in your Country ought to know the business—it Will alarm them & prevent [2] further Speculations—

I wish you would let me hear frequently from you & What quantity of Vacant Land can be had—perhaps I can engage it—

Your Ob HS

J. HALL

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*TARBORO⁻. 29th. June 1794

Dear Sir

Lest I should not see you before you may probably be in company with the Treasurer I write this to inform you that I forwarded to him from Petersburg by Express £5603.19.11 3/4 of North Carolina Certificates which I wrote him were forwarded by your Order and for your use I did this in consequence of my former letter to you requesting you to write the Treasurer [John Haywood] to that Effect and now give you notice thereof that you may be prepared on that subject—I hope you have effected an exchange of a considerable part of the former Certificates for paper money which will now be wanted to pay for Oggs Land.—I also wrote him that it was probable a further sum of 4000 £ would come forward to Hillsboro^g. that the same would be addressed to me in that case he was to open the Bundle and

hold them as those forwarded, by Mr. Grant, express subject to your order I mention this that you make the necessary Inquiry on that head and that [2] you may appear to him to understand the whole and to have given Orders for the forwarding them—the[y] are to be forwarded from Phila^a. by Mr. R. [Robert] Morris—

I am Dr. Sir

Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE July 1st. 1794

I to be sure have plenty of Business of my own and I am sure that you have yet I can't well help troubling myself & you about Politicks.—The Object of it is to have Thomas Blount appointed a Senator at the next Session of Assembly—To effect this it is of Consequence that you take Care to have *proper Persons* elected to the General Assembly in your own quarter of the Country for one Neighbour against a Man is more to be feared than two more distant enemies.—I think it an *Object* to the family that T. B. should be elected worth your attention & the attention of our other Brothers & Friends and to your Management you know the whole Business must be submitted.—T. B. I know [2] or believe will not agree to it if he is asked but he will be at Congress & will undoubtedly serve if appointed such you Know is his sense of a Man's duty to his Country—Richard Blackledge informed me that T. B's appointment would be certain if attempted and I intended to have mentioned the Subject to you before you left Salem.—

Doctor [James] White is so sanguine in the Business that if I advise or wish him he will attend the Assembly to aid with his Influence with his old Friends in the Election and I shall so advise him & you may *depend* on Seeing him if you tell me his election will be attempted and I shall expect your answer by the Return of Maj^r. [George] Farragut.—you may rely that in so large a family of active men as ours it is essential to have some

one [of] them in the Public Councils.—I shall add [3] no more except that I earnestly wish his election & if it is done you are the Man who must have it done

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Major)

Farragut)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE July 2^d. 1794

Major [George] Farragut goes from this to Richmond express with Public letters for the Secretary of War from Thence he will go to Washington to you, The Principal Object of his coming to you is to receive the land Papers, Power &c to enable me to make a Settlement with General [James] Robertson who will be here at the Setting of the Assembly in August for that Purpose—The Session commences on the 4th Monday in August at which day the General will certainly be here and as he has no business with the Assembly he will not stay here longer than until he effects the Settlement perhaps four or five days—I am thus particular in Mentioning the Time he will arrive [2] and his Stay here that you may be sure to start Farragut in such Time that he may with Certainty arrive on or before the 25th aug^t at this Place.—The News Papers contain the News of this place and you will see that the Indians still continue their Acts of Hostility and I am taught to hope that Power is at length vested in the President to make them in Turn feel the Horrors of War & I am led to Hope that the Day is not distant when he will exercise the Power he possesses.—One Thing I am sure of That let the Creeks & Cherokees give what Assurances they will that they will desist from Killing & Stealing until they feel the correcting [3] and restraining hand of Government that they will not—As yet I have not been able

with all my Inquiries & Industry to have the Warrants given me at Salem located and surveyed but the Business is in Train & soon will be completed.—M^r. Allison from his last letters is I presume with you before this and I request you to advise him in all Cases—I fear he left Philadelphia before M^r. Grants arrival but I have great Confidence in the Prudence & Discretion as well as Judg^t. of M^r. Grant—The only Business committed to M^r. Grant in the Absence of M^r. Allison was if possible to sell the big Grant of J G & T. B & if he does he will inform you to the end that you may make the Title.⁶⁵—

[4] By this Conveyance I instruct M^r. Grant not to sell for less than Half a Dollar in the Absence of M^r. Allison—It is *really* worth a dollar per Acre and A Part of it will cost that Preece I mean certain prime Pieces & I am lately informed of about 2000 Acres being Granted to a Francis Mayberry that will cost that Price I mean this quantity over & above what I had before heard of. I am &c &c

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount
[No address]

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

WARREN Co: July 3rd 1794

D^r Sir

From M^r Blackledge I understood that you have begun to make large Surveys. You recollect perhaps my saying that I wished to take up 1500 or 2000 A^s of good Land in 2 or 3 Tracts near navigable Waters. My Object would be Land chiefly covered with white Oak Timber, because such Land when drained will generally produce good Crops and the Timber itself is annually becoming more scarce and valuable. In large Surveys there must be some Spots of such Land on which a Location might be pitched of prior Date to that of the large Survey. And the Surveyor if a clever fellow would take the Trouble for a small Consideration of looking them out.

⁶⁵He probably refers to the large grant of 97,000 acres on the Duck River to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Alice B. Keith, Three North Carolina Blount Brothers in Business and Politics (an unpublished dissertation, The Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), 285.

From some conversation I had the other day with Gen^l. Person I am induced to believe that he will not incline to be at any Expence in arming the select Militia. You know I suppose that the Militia in all the [2] states as far to the southward as Maryland exclusive are completely armed. I mean the whole Militia and yet Maryland is the first state that abounds in Slaves. Is there any fatality in this Business? Foreign Enemies out of the Question, it seems strange that the only People are without Arms to whose Safety they may at any Hour become essential. It must be Blindness not design that is preparing the State for the Tragedy of an Insurrection.

I am D^r Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Major)

Farragut)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE July 18th 1794

The inclosed Paper contains the Indian News of this place and we have no other—I have not received a line from you since our Departure from Salem nor from M^r. Allison since the 5th June in which he informed me should accompany T. Blount to North Carolina without saying how long his Stay in Carolina would be so that I know not to which Place to Write him—However by this Conveyance to Richmond I write him to Philadelphia in his Absence to James Grant & inclose a Plott well done by M^c.Clung for 95'370 acres of land in Hawkins County on Clinch between Powell's & Clark Mountains—This Tract though broken bears a good Description as to richness of soil, well watered & timbered and a good Description accompanies the [2] Plat signed by respectable Characters.

I have limited the Price to not less than 1/3 of a dollar per Acre—You will say no Grant is obtained, true, but a very

accurate Survey has been made & the lines well marked and if sold a Grant can be obtained—Its now known as mine & will be so considered & not meddled with by any body—Col. Donelson will be down in September with the Works in the other Warrants & I believe we shall make a sweeping Survey between the Clinch & Holsten so as to include the Mouths of both these Rivers say at least 150'000 Acres but Donelson himself will be a Part Owner in it—

Mr. Harvey, Sister [Anne], & Willie are up the Country for a Fortnight past the last I heard from the two former they continued to mend—

I am Your affectionate Brother
W^m. BLOUNT

J. G. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

Via)
Richmond)

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 20th July 1794

Sir,

Finding that I shall have less riding to do this Summer than I expected & that Allison's horses are in better order than I supposed they would by this time be, I send you your horse, with thanks for the loan of him, by Major Farragut who came here last night on a tired horse in his way to you on Business from William Blount—By him, as he will come directly here, you will please send up Gordon's horse—Patrick Keefe who is now at your place has my permission, to bring up old Jack & I told him I should want Sharpe's Chair which he might also bring up, but finding Mr Ogg's chair here I shall have not need of it.

I have this moment rec^d. a very friendly & consolatory letter, which appears to have been written in very great grief, from Gen^l. Jones informing me of his daughters' recantation & I have therefore to request of you not to mention to any person alive what I told you respecting myself & her—and as Jacob is the only

person besides yourself that knows any thing of the matter from me I beg you to request of him, by Letter if he is gone home, to keep the secret confined to his own breast—[2] My Solicitude on this occasion proceeds not from chargin on my part but from a regard to the feelings of the Gen^l. & his Lady whose conduct toward me, from beginning to end, entitles them not only to my respect but my applause—indeed, I can scarcely impute blame to the Girl herself although her error at first blush appears so great & I am myself the dupe of it—for bad actions may, & sometimes do, proceed from good motives & I have too much respect for my Judgment to suppose she was ever actuated by a bad one—I forgive her freely & am willing to applaud her when I shall find, as probably I may, that she deserves applause—again I enjoin you to secrecy⁶⁶—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

[Address torn off]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 24th July 1794

Sir,

[Charles] Gerrard says you promised to send word to Topping when the Millstones arrived that he might come up & fit them with spindles &c. at Washington; & he desires you to do so as soon as you can—If this should reach you before old Jack leaves you I wish you to send him by the Bearer & with him Sharpe's Chair which, as Ogg will take his away sooner than I expected, I find I shall want. Mr. Ed. Hall desires me to ask you if you will be at Pitt Court, he will be there & has a wish to see you—I intend, if I can to be there myself—you told me you could spare me a little good Wine & I will thank you to send it up by the first opportunity & with it a few Gallons of Molasses which Mr^s. Harvey Says is much wanted for the family's use I shall go up the Country with Gerrard [2] in the beginning of next Month to avoid Sickness which I am sure I shall get if I stay here; & it is for that purpose I want Sharpes Chair—My intended journey to Halifax is disappointed by the information I gave you P Mr

⁶⁶No further explanation of this event has been found.

Farragut therefore it is not probable that I shall see Col. Ashe but I will forward your Letter to him, to Judge Sitgreaves & get him to do the Business it relates to—[David] Allison has not arrived here yet but I have heard that he is at Blount Hall⁶⁷ & expect him hourly—all well

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

[Address torn off]

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

FAYETTVILLE July 28th. 1794

Dear Sir/

I arrived here this Evening through Onslow, Newhanover & Brunswick, & Bladen Washed to death or Nearly so and find I shall be able to do something cleaver below the Upper District by you laid Down, in this I hope you and Allison will permitt me to be half Concerned, he has said I may be & hope you'l agree when it may Save me without Risque of Credit or Expence, To save me is I think you [your] wish and shall work Accordingly I Shall not be able to see you before the 25th Aug^t. or Later with all that I Can do

I have by this post wrote Allison I Can Secure 500,000 Acres more then is before engaged, & to be prepared for the same[.] mind I will not run a risque or Touch with out a Certainty—Ogg is Just arrived. half drowned & we start Tomorrow on our Errand, mind Sir, to do it well I have much to do & pray you'l not think me Idle [2] Inclosed is a Letter to my Wife. send it her with a Line Calling on her to know if She chuses to go before my Return if she wishes to go Maj^r. Blount will send Moses or T. Blackledges Sam With her the Latter is best if he Can be had. tho [I] do not expect much that she will go before my Return which shall be as soon as Possable I Can do the Business well tho not an Hour sooner, more Land then I before stated Can be had is my present Opinion tho' of this I will be well advised before I do any thing—Ben Smiths Fort the Green swamp in Brunswick is 25 Miles through in any direction & not a forth

⁶⁷See references to Blount Hall in *The John Gray Blount Papers*. I. Sharpe Blount owned Blount Hall after the death of his father, Jacob Blount, Sr. See William Blount to Thomas Hart, Knoxville, February 9, 1794, page 358, above.

[fourth] entered or Grant'd and there is as much more [ponds, sic] & Sandhills below the same next[,] the sea together more then 200,000 acres [.] here I shall unless otherwise Directed at Wilmington touch for 100,000, this County is 30 Miles Squair for your Government [information, sic] the Land Back off & Joining Say it[sic] will give me 100,000 Acres [3] Onslow [County] will give me 100,000 Acres & to spare[.] Lenoir & Wain [Lenoir & Wayne Counties] will give me 50,000 and Dupelin will give me with Sampson 100,000 Acres all which will be in Bodys of not more then Two Surveys in a County—Write me to Wilmington to Care of Toomer[.] write fully & freely I cannot be there in less then 14 or 15 Days from the present appearances—as I expect to go to Hilsborough before I go to Wilmington

I am Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

p Post Fri)

Tarborough)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE July 29th 1794

Dear Sir,

I embrace the opportunity by Col. J. Sheppard as I do every other to write you whether I have Subject Matter or not.—By a letter from R^d Blackledge I am informed that he had failed in the expected Purchase of Negroes for Kentuckey. Had he have succeeded Negroes would have sold to great Profit.—Mony is and will be very plenty in Kentuckey and Major Ore was quite ready to go on the Business.—Blackledge also informed me that he had made some Purchases of good lands on Cape Fear—If I [2] am not mistaken he had better have done Nothing—Land in Cape Fear at 1/3 of the *estimated* Price in Cash or Certificates is a hard Bargain for a Cash Purchaser cannot be found and I need say Nothing of the Punctuality of the Gentlemen in that quarter of the Country.

On Sunday 27th the Commissions for the Legislative Council arrived here express in 14 days from the Secretary of State they are Gen^l. Rutherford, Gen^l. Seveir, Col. Donalson, Col. Winchester & Parmenas Taylor with all whom I am well pleased⁶⁸—

It is now certain the General Assembly will set the 24th of Aug^t. Immediately after the Assembly [3] rises[.] Donelson intends [going] down [sic] with another big Survey including the Point below this between Holston & Clinch.

On the 24th Instant the Indians Killed John Ish 18 Miles below this place on the South Bank of the Holston at his Plough which has much exasperated the Frontier People—say they while Double Head otherwise Tucalatague [also called Chuquilatague] and his sanguinary Brothers are received and caressed at Philadelphia we are daily Suffering at the Hands of their Associates in Iniquity.—M^r. Harvey & Bertie are at the Warm Springs on French Broad and the last I heard of them continued to mend[.] Willie is with them—I expect them home in 4 or 5 days—I am without the [4] Pleasure of a letter from you since I saw you—Grant returned here a Week past having as you Know fortunately met Allison at Richmond

I presume Allison has returned to Philadelphia by this Time, I think of Nothing to add but to repeat that I am &c &c

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 29th July 1794

Dear Sir

You neglected while Allison was at Newbern to make a title to him for the large tract of Land on Clinch & he supposes you forgot it—& by Mr Farragut I send you such papers as will enable you to make it at Greeneville from whence you may I imagine send it with great convenience by some of the Gentlemen of this town who are now there—It was my intention to have met

⁶⁸Blount had called for an election of representatives in October of 1793. Those who were elected met at Knoxville early in 1794 to nominate ten members for the Legislative Council. From the slate the President (Washington) selected the following: Griffith Rutherford, John Sevier, Stockley Donelson, James Winchester, and Parmenas Taylor. Their commissions had just been received and were the occasion of Blount's remarks. Carl S. Driver, *John Sevier* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1932), 110.

my Pitt friends to day but Allison is too unwell & low Spirited to be left alone & the waters are up so high that I suppose I could not get along without swimming which would not well agree with my Rheumatic Knees & feet[.] under these circumstances I trust they will excuse me for not attending if it should fall in your way please tell them so—inclosed I send you copy of the 15th Section of the Law respecting Stills passed at the last Session of Congress please give a Copy of it to the officer of Pitt & another to the Office of Beaufort—If you cannot execute a Deed to Allison at Greenville & think it necessary he should have one, you may do it immediately [2] to Washington & send it up in time for he must remain here at least four days after this—but if you could possibly come here, as it is not in my power to come to you, perhaps the Business might be done better—Gerrard thinks Topping had better be sent for to direct how the Irons for our Millstones should be made & having done that he can proceed here to finish the Wooden Work of the Mill—We shall get Janny [a millwright] to hang & dress the Stones if possible—Write me the Situation of the new Brig & about the Deed & when you will go to the Bar—If the wheather should be good tomorrow & Allison better than he is I will try to get to Greenville for I Know the people expect me & I am really very anxious to see them—return the inclosed paper respecting Land in your Letter—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
now at
Greeneville

Major)
Farragut)

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE August 4th. 1794
Monday Evening 7 P.M.

Dear Sir/.

I am this Moment returned from Richmond the first County I have gone to and done my Business to Satisfaction. I have Entered Two Hundred Thousand Acres which will be got their

[there] with Little or no Incumberances for many Reasons[.] I have been obliged to Make the Entrys in 640 Acres Each[.] Mr. [George] Ogg has Accompanied me & the Business [has been] done in a proper Manner[.] the Locations are from 594 to 906 booth [both] Numbers Inclusive dated the 26th of July. The Transaction Stands Thus 313 Entrys of 640 Oackes [acres] Each [warrant] is 200.320 Acres a [at] 30/. 313 Entry takers fees a [at] 4/[and] D°. [Ditto] Secretarys a [at] 6/8[.] Am^t £3171.14.8 paid Down £1071.14.8,⁶⁹ my order on your Letter of Credit payable. 90 Days after Date for £2100, It is the Opinion of those Concerned there is much more Land in this County but I would go no further which [2] rather hurt[s] them, the Rest of the Land I expect to get in Bladen and this County [Cumberland]. I go for Bladen in the Morning. and when I have done their [there] Return to this Office about 25 Miles up the River one [on, sic] Atkins[.] from there I believe I shall [go, sic] and See Mr. Craven on Business and git the papers Directed[.] I find these people Dissatesfyed with Allison. I shall Write you from time to time from where I may be[.] I would give much for an Hour with you. things shall go Right but I am not pleased with your Connection enough on this head

I am Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed:

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merch^t

Washington

Beaufort County

c/O Post to Tarborough

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH August 8th 1794

Dear Sir,

On my way from New Bern I halted at Greeneville two days hoping to see you, being told by Farragut you would be at that place: as I was disappointed, on my getting here I made known

⁶⁹He calculated this by counting the cost of the land at 30 shillings per 100 acres with an addition of 313 entry takers fees at 4 shillings each (4x313) and 313 secretary's fees at 6/8 (6 shillings and 8 pence for each fee).

to your Brother the Motive of my wish to see & converse with you: we have talked of the matter without my being able to determine what I had best do or whether any thing, and therefore it is that I send you this:—the Conversation which passed between yourself & me at Hillsborough last Spring & since at New Bern, led me to suppose it might be in your power to point out a mode in which a friend might effect the business of getting rich in the land-Speculation way, without interfering at [2] at all with your prospects or wishes: if such should be the case, I had every reason to suppose you would willingly and readily say all you might to me on the occasion; it was to this end I had desired to converse with you.—I have no wish to make money in this way myself, but I have Brothers as poor as Job, who are a great tax on me & who without some assistance are like to remain long unprovided for, and it is for them I would wish to secure some contract in this or some other line by which I might be freed from them as a Burthen & by which they might be enabled to live & get forward in the world.—Your Brother believe[s] Alison could effect my wish in this respect & through his advise I spoke to him, but had it not in my power to do any thing [3] thing to the purpose, nor did I think his proposals, even had they been positive & such as would have been at once binding if complied with, advantageous.—You will understand me if you please fully, that I wish not to do any thing in this way nor to interfere at all in the business if it would in any manner tend to defeat or hinder any project of your own, but if it would have no such tendency (and I suppose it would not as all or the greatest part of the Entries my Brothers would make would probably be in the middle or upper parts of the State) I should think myself much served & obliged by your pointing out the most advantageous & decisive manner in which something can be done; for much I suppose will depend on its being done soon.—as I have told you my Brothers are poor, it follows of [4] of course they have no Cash to make Entries with; if they had M^r B— has already said what he thought would be best, Viz^t. take up the land & depend on the sale of it when secured; but this cannot be done without Money.—I will not to trouble you with more; I have it much at heart to do something for them if I can & rest satisfied you will put me in the way if it is in your person.—I leave this for Hillsborough in the course of the next week & should be glad to hear from you before I set out.—I heard your

business of entering lands in Hyde publicly spoken of at the Gov^{rs}. by Col^o. Leech before I left NewBern—he also mentioned Blackledges Entries with Daly & in Carteret & added that Jasper told him you are to have 1/ Sterling P Acre—the matter is so far public, but I suppose it is of no consequence to you now, as I hope you have effected all you wished in that quarter.

I am respectfully much & truly yours

JOHN HAYWOOD

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 12th Aug^t. 1794

Sir,

The bearer hereof is Mr Francis Hall, Son of the late Thomas H. Hall, who, being destitute of property & dependent wholly on his own industry for the means of subsistence, has, after much consideration, determined to turn Seaman; & to induce him to do so, (for my respect for his family as well as himself makes me extremely solicitous for his welfare) I have told him that he shall have a birth [berth] before the mast, which is all he would at present ask, on board the Tooley with Such Monthly Wages as Landsmen usually have, or as you, upon the report of the Captain at the end of the voyage, may think him entitled to by his Services—and that, if he Should continue in our employ, he may expect Such promotion as his abilities & Merit may entitle him to & our Situation may enable us to give him.—Upon this assurance he comes down prepared to step immediately on board & I hope it will be pleasing to you [2] to See him do so—It is a determination highly pleasing to his Uncle Edward⁷⁰ & all his other friends—and as he has rec^d. a tolerable education, having been intended for the Bar, & is a youth of Some genius & great Spirit, I doubt not but under the direction of Cap^t. Smith, he will soon acquire a degree of Nautical Knowledge that will make him respectable in the eyes of the world & useful to himself, his Country & his Employer—I wish you to introduce him to Cap^t. Smith as a youth that I have great regard for who wishes to qualify himself for the highest station in the profession; but

⁷⁰There are a number of references to Edward Hall, a merchant of Tarborough, in the John Gray Blount Papers.

I would not be understood to ask any indulgence for him in the line of his Duty—It is only by the practice of that, that he can acquire the Knowledge I wish him to possess—I only ask for him Such treatment as a person who behaves himself well in his Station ought to receive from his Superior officers; & perhaps, as he has not been accustomed to much restraint, he may be governed better by advice than by the more common methods used by most Captains [3] of Vessels—The Captain will greatly oblige me by assisting him in his endeavors, if he Should use any, & I flatter myself he will, to acquire Theoretical Knowledge—all the property that he possesses, or has a chance to possess, he has with him in Money which he carries with a view to its augmentation by a small Trade & that you know ought not to be carried on without the Knowledge of the Captain; which you will [no] doubt take care to give instructions about [with, sic] a regard to your own Interest as owner of the Vessel.—Mr. Allison started this Morning but in so low a State of health that I am fearful he will be compelled to Stop Somewhere on the way—though Janney is to be employed to hang the Mill Stones, if he can be had, [Charles] Gerrard is of opinion that Topping ought to direct how the irons are to be made & fitted, if they, in his, yours & Readings opinion, will answer our purpose—and he cannot have the[m] done to soon—The fern root is got but not yet dry enough to pulverize—You Shall have it by the first opportunity after it can be prepared for use.

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr John G. Blount

Washington

Fav^d. by Mr Frank Hall

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 26th. August 1794

Dear Sir,

Since the rising of the general Assembly I have been very ill, and have but just begun to get about in a Sulkey. The lateness of the Season and M^{rs}. Spaight's fears make me decline a Visit to the bar [Shell Castle]—We shall set out tomorrow for Swoonsboro^s to change the air, & eat salt water fish, which I

expect will put some flesh on my bones—I hope you and M^{rs}. Blount will have a pleasant time at the Castle.

I shall be glad to know your Opinion of the quantity of land a person is confined to, in making a Single Entry—whether he is confirmed to 640. agreeable to the old land law or whether he can't enter 5,000 agreeable to the western land law—

I have been Shewing Gov^r. Wallace a patent of John Kerne's for 640 acres on portsmouth banks where D. Wallace lives, dated April 1753, and Kersie's deed to my father for the same dated the 12th. may 1755. he sais he believe their is an Older patent for the same land in the name of Thomas Nilson which he expects is [2] is recorded in Boyd's Books. I will thank you to have a search made to see if there is such a patent there, and if there is to send me the courses, for tho' it may be elder its probable the Courses are not exactly the same & a part of the land which my patent covers may be left out of his—I will write to Glasgow⁷¹ for to know if such a patent be recorded there. Wallace has the Courses of Kerne's patent.

Pray have you heard whether M^r. [Josiah] Collins's Corn Crop at the Lake turns out well this year? if it does now its probable it never will be injured by rain. I am informed that my rice at the lake is remarkably fine.

M^{rs}. Spaight Joins me in Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount I am with Esteem

D^r. Sir Your most Ob^t. Ser^t
RICH^d. D. SPAIGHT

John G. Blount Esq^r.
Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
By Barber Joe—

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. Aug^t. 27th. 1794

Dear Sir

Being alive and somewhat better, I have this day commenced business of which I take the earliest opportunity to inform you—On my arrival here I found the bills drawn on me were all

⁷¹James Glasgow was secretary of state until 1798. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, I, 373n.
35.

taken up, but with much difficulty except two for 1500 which were retained by the holders and which I have now to pay, you may be surprised when I say with difficulty to obviate this I tell you the sum was upwards 30,000 D^r.—from this you can easily judge my feelings[.] what money I brought with me must be delivered to my friends and I am here even without Market money and cant get possession of one farthing of 60,000 D^s. owing from the public[.] I can say my Financiering Faculties were brought nearer to *Bay* than I ever remember since I entered into business and more Bills are drawing on me[.] God knows what the Event* [may be, sic] but am sure my friends meant to try me well and if *[they succeed in, sic] this may go to any length—and to crown all other difficulties J. B. Evens & C^o. have to pay [be paid] during next month for Coffee and sugar Speculations 90,000 D^{rs}. This is laid at my door.

I arrived on Saturday but little better than when I left you [and] all these Curses were made known, I was Staggered I confess but laughed, I pretended more real sickness [2] than was actually the Case to gain time for thought[.] I have lain and possumed as Col^o. Blount says for I confess I never felt more puzzled—this morning I sallied forth and will give you the Event of the day in which you are to consider yourself deeply interested—My plan of Escape from ruin is this, I have agreed to convey 3,000,000 Acres land in Georgia S^o. Carolina North Carolina Virginia Kentuckey and Territory S^o of the Ohio at a stipulated price of which I am bound not to tell, they⁷² are bound not to purchase from any other person for 12 M^o. at any price lands in any of those States and to pay me to begin with £50,000 Sterling and I am to interest them equally in whatever quantity I can purchase during that Period at such price as they may affix, *The Small balance* to be paid in two years, these are the proposals and I have good ground to believe a Compliance on their part, if so, have a Care you little pidling Speculators—in dangerous Cases Powerful remedies ought to be applied, but you may say, the Cure is worse than the disease *[but do not, sic] fear if I suceed in the Bargain[s] I count on Fortunes to all concerned nay I am sure— Having now communicated to you my objects, It remains with you to secure me all the North Carolina lands

⁷²Probably Robert Morris and George Nicolson. See John Hall to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, September 9, 1794, page 430, below.

* This manuscript is badly marred.

you can, I have written Blackledge for 150.000 Acres about Cape fear and you 500,000 [3] and as much more as you can

Write me the prospects as early as possible[.] I sett of for Knoxville in a few Weeks of this you will have notice let it not stop your writing—

Adieu I have more Correspondents and a great deal of business—

I am D^r. Sir with Respect Your ob^t Servant
DAVID ALLISON

NB Advise M^r. Blackledge and swear him to secrecy on the Bible for one Year—if I am deceived this time I will never communicate another

Corner of Spruce & 5th Streets
Phil^a

I mention this direction that my place of residence may be known I write the Gov^r. [Blount] by Express on this Subject I need not mention to you that *Secrecy* is better than *Generalship* not even J Haywood is to know it nor your next door neighbour perhaps not M^{rs}. Blount—excuse this remember my Terrestrial Salvation may depend on it and the Character of *my best friend and Yours* [William Blount, sic]

NB.—Wheat from 9 a 10/. pennsylvania Currency P^r Bushell

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. Sept^r. 5th. 1794

Dear Sir

I am again down with the effects of the Ague and when well enough to be up I can hardly Walk, my whole system is debilitated with too much exercise before I had fully recovered

Yesterday I was very unwell, so much so that D^r [Benjamin] Rush considered it the Yellow Fever tho' he modestly called it a Bilious, but prescribed for the first, by bleeding blistering & purging the two first I wholly rejected—I am today able to sit up and walk thro the room—by my rejecting the Doctors prescription

you may know I dont believe him nay I am sure nothing but strength is wanting—

Nothing is done in the grand business waiting for the coming of Greenleaf from N. York[.] he is to be with us on the 8th. when we have assurances as before set forth, the result whereof you shall speedily know. they declare it is a grand Object and one which they have long wished for, from such observations, I founded my belief [2] Unless I recover fastly I shall not be able to go to Knoxville this fall, continue to write me here.

I am endeavouring to get Thomas⁷³ to go forward but he is so much engaged in that rascally gaming business that I have little hopes of him

I am D^r Sir with respect Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

As I have told you Thomas is gaming I ought to tell [you] for him, that you have failed in getting the Contract for the Mail—so has the Roanock man[.] Col^o. T. Blount has it from Tarboro^e. to Lewisville at I believe 4 Dolls—The bidders against you do it for 2.75

Addressed: John G Blount esq^r.

Washington

N^o Carolina

Post

John Hall to John Gray Blount

PHILA^d. 9th September 1794

Mr. John G. Blount

Sir

Your last favor duly arrived In which I observe you expect to Secure at least 300 M Acres, the more the better—I wish the moment they are in Grants you would forward them—Accidents may happen—a large Territory will be Exposed for Sale this fall in Georgia, which no doubt will lesson the price of Small Poteters [*sic*] [small potatoes, *sic*]—Morris & Nicholson have refused purchasing lately & I believe entirely from that

⁷³Abishai C. Thomas, Federal claim agent for North Carolina, was strongly addicted to gambling.

Anticipation—they have agreed to take all the Swamp—your bills on me at 60 Days Shall be duly honored When ever you want more mony—

I am D^r Sir Y^r. Mo. Ob. St

J. HALL

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

FAYETTVILLE Sep^r. 9th. 1794

Dear Sir/

I left you & went to Halifax from there here, then to Lumberton, & Elizabeth & Summoned the Parteyes Concerned & Closed the Contract, & returned to Bladen & Closed the Business for 200,320 Acres, returned to this Place and wrote you by the Tarb^o, past 10 Days agoe, I then went [with, sic] Col^o James Porterfield to the Entry Taker of Cumberland & Closed the Business their the 30th of Aug^t. for the entrys as made on the 4th. and drew on you pay^{ble}. the last Day of Dec^r. for £4896. Currency[.] 313 of these entrys are Transferred to David Allison, the Ballance 197. to yourself Am^t in Quantity of Land 326,400 Acres, the Draft from Bladen is for £3004.16.0 pay^{ble} the 1st. Jan^y. ensueing—From the Cumberland Office I went to Rawleigh for to git the Money as by orders from Halifax and have been dancing Attendance untill the 7th. when I Completed the rece^t [receipt] of £2818 of D. A. [David Allison] Money and £2679.18/.6 your Money for your Governm^{ts}. [information or discretion] [2] this Morning I go from this Place to Close the Business in Moore & Montgomery for 450,000 [acres] where I shall use as Little Money as Possable but fear I shall be Obliged to use the Bulk in hand and John Porterfield goes Directly to Work in Surveying[.] I have given the Roberson Entry taker £2000, and £3000 more will be wanting for him. I observe the order on Daves at Newbern is on its return to you to Negotiate, I shall with Col^o James Porterfield try his and your Credit for Brunswick County where 300,000 more Can be had in large Bodys, I stand in Need of your young Horse in the fork[.] have

him put in order for me and shod and you must have your Business so Arrainged as to Attend to me when I Come home when I must have things so arrainged as to Command the sum of £4 or £5,000. Aught you not to Attend to that Business of W. Blounts before the Court at Hilsb°. & have it Closed [?] why not do this as soon as Possable after seeing me—We shall git One Million of [3] Acres of Land all Joining in the Countys of Moore, Montgomery, Cumberland & Richmond and those Grants Can be all out by the 14th. day of November fit for Markett

I am Dear Sir Your Ob^t. Servant

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

p post via Wilmington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB°. 13th Sept. 1794

Sir,

I have exchanged all the Money left with with me by D. A. [David Allison] & what I had on hand of the 1000 Dol^s. rec^d. for you from J. H. [John Hall] at 10/6—& Mess^{rs}. Gracie & Anderson with whom I exch^d. have £700 more which they wish to exchange & will send to Halifax on the 20th Inst^t. so that if you have any hard money or Bank Bills on hand you had better send them, or it, to me at this place by the 17th or Martin [County] Court where I shall be next week till Thursday Morning—it will be wrong to miss such an opportunity—I am obliged to go or send to Halifax on that day to pay such part of the Money as was in Dollars which at the time of exchanging I had not with me. I put into the hands of R. B. [Richard Blackledge] at Hillsborough on Sunday last all the paper I rec^d. & £2,500 more rec^d from—I wish much to see or hear from you at Martin Court. [2] Your order on J. Daves for 1000 Dollars I have in possession & will

carry with me there—all tolerably well—I send you a Letter from Your Son Tom—who was well last Monday as was Jacky Keais—Comp^{ts}

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr John G Blount
Washington
Hon^d. by M^r Farris

John Hall to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 14th September 94

M^r. John G Blount
Sir

there appears at present in this City to be a vital Stab to Land Speculation—Morris & his Company have refused purchasing at any price—In the Contract I made with them for the Swamp they had 'till 5th October to review the Land & if it was not done by that I was no longer bound to have it reviewed⁷⁴—the moment the grants are Signed please to forward them for fear of mistakes—Send also Certificates respecting the Lands—that there are no Judgments, Mortgages or Executions ag^t. me, or any Person who will be obliged to Convey—if the grants are not in my name have conveyance made to me drawn by an [2] Attorney, Which have recorded—all this is necessary otherwise the bargain can never be Concluded—do let me know the day I may expect the Grants &c—

I am sir Y^r. Mo. Ob St

J. HALL

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

⁷⁴The two land speculators, David Allison and John Hall, seem to have been bidding against each other.

*Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount*FAYETTVILLE Sep^t. 16th. 1794.

Dear Sir/

According to promis from Hillsborough I now again write you on the Subject of the grand object. and Say Generally how fair [far] I have gone in the Locations of the Lands. Viz^t. in Richmond County July 26th. 200.320 Acres. Aver^e. 40 M [miles] from F. [Fayetteville] Bladen County. May 7th. 200 320 Acres d^o. 40. d^o.

these Lands on booth sides Cape fear River between Fayett and Wilmington from 5 to 25 Miles from Navigation with Large Boats that Come to Fayett—

Cumberland the 4th. of August 326,000 Acres aver^e. 25 M from Fayett. Westward— Roberson by Accounts from J. Willis the 14th to hand this Night 300,000 acreage

25 M from Cape fear River to the south of the River & Fayetteville—Out of these Lands you git your 500,000 in the Countys of Richmond & Cumberland—

Moore Aug^t 10th. 256,000 aceerage 35 Miles from Fayett West— Montgomery. Sep^t. 11th. 163,200 Aceerage 70 M West of Fayett—

there are generally good Lands for your Government—

I am this moment obliged to [go] New bern to answer some of my old Follys from their I go to Brunswick & Close that Business for 300,000 with JGB Concent also. the Business in Carteright [Carteret County], Onslow and Newhanover. & will write [2] more fully by the Washington or Newbern post[.] Mind I have Listed and do not desert. I find there is some Little Adventures in Circulation tho I am athwart their Horse, as yet, the Credit of JGB & the Money I have had has yet born me out. he must be Supported? In turn he Can do the Like if I live. my Spirrits are finely up & hope for every [sic] well doing[.] this Letter is to Serve for the Moment[.] the Male [mail] is wateing I am

Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Mercht
Washington

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a September 18th. 1794

Dear Sir/

I have once more to acquaint you that the expected bargain is yet in a vague State altho we have been battering the Watch with them almost every day since we made the onset—they speak at times as tho they would not purchase until they Knew the Event of this Pittsburg expedition, in which you must see there is no reality only Finesse and I believe only a manovre to induce us to better Terms, of my success I will write you by every post until we do something one way or the other

Mr. Blackledge writes me that 1,000,000 [acres], is entered in your name in sundry Counties, of which I have no account from you, only that you expect to draw on me *largely* I wish these drafts to be delayed as long as possible the better to enable me to be in Funds. The Foundation of which I am trying to establish and hope to succeed. I wish you to be particular in stating to me the principles on which I am to furnish this money, this matter ought to be understood between us, whether it is to be replaced to me in a limitted time with Interest, or otherwise, and that the Land is to be sold before that Period to raise the money—this way may perhaps be the best as I am sure it will not bring more [2] Than 8^d. per Acre if so much in Cash and will be somewhat in return for their favour to me in the business—for If I sell no person but myself will purchase therefore I may set my price in which I will endeavour to reserve my dividend, so that we may each draw a third instead of the half between us—

Many land sellers are here but none of them have learned our offers, [Abishai] Thomas is pidling at them to sell for Will Polk 350,000, in Anson[,] Richmond & Mecklenburg [Counties], he has as yet failed—the sellers dont understand the timing the business, It is long Credit that induces them to purchase, We propose to give two Years without any payment except the purchase money which is a Trifle.

Cant you write me a letter respecting those lands stating the quantity the time they will be granted, when you expect to be able to forward them; their quality, making a good part of them of the best swamp land excellent for meadow and on draining, Land of first quality for any kind of Crop. the residue of the general quality of Uplands in the several Counties. of I am

acquainted, Observing that some peculiar Circum [3] stances which you will communicate at a proper period made it necessary that these Lands should be entered and Granted in your name but that you will immediately on obtaining the Grants convey to me—this will confirm my holding such lands as I have proposed to sell and be an inducement to them to purchase and agree to my proposals—Unless such address is used I shall be obliged to decamp as I shall not be able to bear the Call for Cash—I have this day to accept for the honor of the drawer (the Gov^r. [William Blount]) bills to Am^t. near 6000 D^s. at 60 & 90 Days on Jackson who is with the Volunteers from this against the Insurgents⁷⁵, & 2000 D^{rs}. at sight and I have not a farthing to pay them with—I mention this to shew you how necessary it is to lend me aid in every way which may suggest itself as likely to keep me in Funds—the demands on me this fall I have calculated at 100,000 D^{rs}. I am sure it wont be less.

I am with great respect

DAVID ALLISON

As times grow hard I increase in health, I am again about but very weak—Col^o. Tho^s. [Abashai Thomas, sic] goes for Knoxville on saturday morning to pay the Troops for me—

[No Address]

⁷⁵Those engaged in the Whiskey Rebellion.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount[TARBOROUGH,] 21 Sep^t. 1794

I have herewith your order on Daves for 1000 Dollars which I rec^d. from J. H. H. [John Hall] together w^h. with £25000 & R. Blackledges receipt for £ 2818. of D.A. [David Allison's] Money being all he left w^h. me & £179.18.6 of the 1000 Doll^{rs}. rec^d for you of Mr. Hall —eq[ual] to 342³/₄ Doll^{rs}. and

I p ^d . in Phil ^a . for JG & TB	}	317 ¹ / ₄
£118. 18.11 P. Cr. eq. to		

also p ^d . to Nicolson at Richmond	}	37
Somewhere about		

and have in hand	200
------------------------	-----

897

the rest Say	103	I have been obliged
--------------------	-----	---------------------

1000

to use to pay for Corn & Pork used in my family last year; for I brought home not enough of my own—I must come down before the 18th Octo. (when I mean to start for Phil^a.) to see you & will then render you an exact account of all things—I must go tomorrow to Pitt Pitt [County] where there is to be a general Muster & where I am told I am loudly exclaimed against—I must see you before I go to Congress—pray write me when you will be at home & at leisure [2] I very much wanted to see you to explain to you the subject on which Carraway wrote me—it is a Land Specⁿ. in which he [Charles] Gerrard & myself for the C^o. are concerned—

the circumstances is known to be approved by D.A.—a further Specⁿ. has been proposed by a Mr. Wheatson on which I wish to consult you—he talked of having Secured between 3&400,000 Acres—which he offer'd me a ¹/₄ part of—I think you will approve of all I have done when you know my reasons for doing—

yours

THO BLOUNT

Addressed: John G Blount

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. September 25th. 1794

Dear Sir

This day I received both your letters dated at Shell Castle one the 8th. the other the 12th. Instant but have not yet rec^d. one from Washington—immediately on the reception I waited on one of the M^rKetlands related the Circumstances of distress about the Vessel⁷⁶ not being able to Cross the Bar (keeping up the time of sailing for sir being present I knew the bargain and it was positive that She should sail within the month of July) that you considered it a hard Case on them and as she might be freighted to some Southern Port, they might choose whether to load her back or not, as it would be impossible to return to Philad^a., they assured me the loss to them would be a great indeed as they have Ordered her loading in readiness at Liverpool, they have therefore requested me to write you their thanks for your kind & Gentlemanly offer and to solicit you taking into Consideration the Accident, whether you would not agree that she remain at Liverpool until February and bring forward the load intended for this fall by the breaking of the sea[.] of this they wish an Answer by next Post—

The Brig Tuly is ordered to be ensured against all risques in London.

No certain Accounts from Jay⁷⁷ or if any they have not transpired. These damned Pennsylvania Insurgents have put every thing here, I mean land, abaft it will bring about 8 or 9^d. per Acre we will have to sell at that, you had best give Col^o. Blount Orders to sell that in your name, as I wish to purchase at the Market price my expectations as to my Sale have not evanished the first good news [2] from Jay and the Insurgents quelled I expect and am almost assured I shall sell—I wait with Patience and Resignation, for that Event nothing doubting but all things will come right.

⁷⁶The new vessel was the *Tuley*. The Ketlands did engage it for a European voyage. William and Charles Lake to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Liverpool, November 6, 1794, page 455, below.

⁷⁷John Jay was sent to England by President Washington as envoy-extraordinary.

The Prices Current of the Articles requested are as follows

Jamaica Rum ..	8/3)	
)	
Grenada.....	6/.6 to 6/10 ^d)	Rum rather on the rise
)	
Antigua	7/2—)	
Rosin	18/9.		
Spirits	3/.)	not knowing what kind of
)	Spirits you meant I have sent
)	the price of Spirits of Tur-
)	pentine as you are in that
)	way
Varnish	2/6		
Tar	15/.		
Pitch	18/9.		

—all these are the prices of Yesterday and to day—.

Money is pretty scarce here, I write you every Post, perhaps I may have other News in my next I wait on M^r. Nicholson to morrow on that subject—Col^o. Thomas set off last Evening for Knoxville where I hope he will be kept and never return here

I am D^r. Sir Your Obedient Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Please write me as to the Land business and be particular that I may know how to act here, it is essential to doing right that I am not kept in the Dark, If you draw Make your bills at 90 at least if possible even if you agree to pay interest—shewing papers here is a great object cant you Send me Titles for the land on Duck [River in Tennessee area] and else [3] where altho I do not propose to sell those lands unless forced—thereto for Want of Funds, yet to have them counts large and helps Credit and when the necessity eases the Conveyances can ease also[.] send with the Conveyances the Grants, the big Seal is a great thing and bulks—the present is a crisis perhaps never again to return in our day[,] ought I not then to be supported[?] Efforts the only thing I have to bring forward shall not be wanting—perhaps in my last I mentioned it if not I tell it now I have commiss^d. a *Gentⁿ. French* to sell for me Western Lands to amount of 2,000,000 Acres giving 12 M^o. from his arrival in America to make the Titles, at a price

not under one *nor over* 2 D^rs. per Acre[.] his Influence Rank & C in France & his attachment to America gives me hopes that something may be done there for his information I wish to hold up all Western lands—you can send the Grants & deeds by Col^o. Blount in the Carriage I want them much—

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Washington

N^o. Carolina

*Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount*⁷⁸

WILMINGTON October 1st. 1794

Dear John/

When I got to Newbern I found the Alarm of Entering Land had much taken place Pollok & Leech booth Called on me to know what you was going to do with all those Lands & my reply was I knew not. Carraway had left a mem^o. with Amos Johnston⁷⁸ the entrytaker to lay for him 60 Entrys in Jones but that was all which Johnston, Sillyly let be seen by Pollok, who emideately laid Eight Locations on Catfish Lake a thing well enough, but he seemed to Signify he thought he would touch a Little further and I found Devereaux was to be Concerned. I then Collected my Money & got Johnston a Horse & bro^t him to Jones where I laid in Allison's Name 100 locations which Can be got & I think Near or quite 50 Moore[.] these are again to revert to Carraway in Case he Comes & does the Necessary in 15 days from the 25th Sep^t. the Date, of the Locations, tho' I wish him Let them Stand as that part of the White Oak Pocoson that Lays in Jones [2] County is equal to 4 by 16 Miles & fine Land[.] Johnston is a Deputy Surveyor & is to git all he Can in the County for me he says he has 120 for the Money or does he want it before Needed in the Treasury the order is Payable the 1st. Jan^r—He then went with me to W^m. Shaves in Onslow County where we did the Business in a few Minutes this I am his D^r for a Copy

⁷⁸This letter has enclosed copies of receipts from Amos Johnston, entry taker of Jones County; William Shaw, entry taker of Onslow County; and lists of lands entered by Richard Blackledge, agent of David Allison, with orders on John Gray Blount.

of all rece^{ts} &c I send you Inclosed for your Government, Let me remind you that you Aught to have Carteright [Carteret] County Sealed I mean the Money Paid as you Know delays bread Daingers [breed dangers, sic] and Joe Bell is a Consciencious Jolley Man and if the Money Comes perhaps he may be swayed to take it, it was thus that Pollok made Johnson do when he found Carraway had paid no Money nor Lodged no Locations which he failed to do tho' the Locations are filed with Bell as I before Stated to you 127. forward Sukey [Blackledge's wife] her Letter and please to see she is supported in Case Maj^r. [Reading] Blount gits Sick & Can't be about to see to things—which I hope will not be the Case [3] Johnson says he will shew me 60 to 70,000 in Dupelin as soon as he comes home from being a Juryman at the Sup^r Court & will help me their [there] or any where Else all in his Power I have wrote W^m Blackledge & Sent him £50 to purchase a Depputation in Onslow & Carteright Countys wheather he spends or not he is to superintend the Surveying and I shall Instruct him in the Business for your Government—this Day I go to Brunswick and will write imediately of my Sucess from there in all things—

I am D^r. Sir

Your Ob^t. Serv^t.

I have write allison [written Allison] for some things they will Come to you when to hand send them all with my Letter to M^{rs}. B [Blackledge].

If Carraway Insists on the Jones Land I will Try to get him off by sending him to Dupelin

RB

[No address]

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

BENJAMIN MILLS'S⁷⁹ October 1st. 1794

Dear John

I wrote you this Morning from Wilmington since have Come here & find Col^o. Porterfield has been here & found that Dry had not or Could not Comply with the requisites of the Law and on

⁷⁹Benjamin Mills was undoubtedly the home of Benjamin Mills. He is mentioned several times in this letter.

a Consultation with Mills he has agreed to take the office of entry-taker, at Court the Second Monday in this Month when Porterfield is to be present to be his Bail & file the Locations to which I shall also Attend & hope will be better than being Drys Bail, Porterfield left this Yeasterday Morning for Fayett. & Mills with him to Bladen on some Business. I expect to see him Tomorrow on my way up to Tom Neales & Jno Halls.—I was this Morning after writing to you giting some paper for my Business here which bro^t. on an enquiry What Doll^s would Change for in Money for Money & learned from Several Places 11/. that as fair [far] as Money Could be had [It] Could be Changed at that. a Bill on this office for 10,000 Doll^s. I think might be Directly Changed[.] if you procure one order me down & I will do the Needfull It must be done Silently or perhaps it may [make price] Lower[,] This price for your Government—In my way I procured from [2] Jno Pugh Williams an obligation to make aright to his Land & order on [William] Polk to procure the Grant to Write it by as he would not give aright other ways then agreeable to the Grant. I say had you not better to write Polk under Cover to me & request him to give me the Grant that you'd settle with him for same by giving him Land agreeable to Williams's Promis & that I would pay him the expensis of Chain barers & Charges p^d. by him of Near £3. so that while in this Quarter I may have the Business done—I am

Dear Sir Your Ob^t. Servant

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

October 2nd. 1794

This Night I have made out in my Mind every difficulty I Can Suggest to prevent my Succeeding & find the worst of Money. tho only one in Porterfields Letter he has not said a word about Money & Suppose of Course there is £1200 at Fayettville I have with me about £1000 so much for a Dead Shot but if Money is the only thing Needed soome Darn'd thing May Turn up[.] others will Want favours as well as us & Come in for Snacks of Course, thus Circumstanced I am now determined again to try Gracey and Anderson again and why not if you have any in hand send W^m Blackledge or someone to me express to Ben Mills's Mind it is not to be used [3] unless some other one Comes In, and every Little helps in *——— let me here from

* The manuscript is badly marred.

you by Post to Wilmington if not by Express [. Because, sic] of my fears of any one I shall not mention it to any one & only Assert no one Can Comeforward and will Try my own Springs again with *Gracey & Anderson* in your behalf if nothing Turns up I am at present not awair of

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington
Tar River

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. October 2nd. 94.

Dear Sir

I have shipped to your Care Ten Boxes of Glass for your State house,⁸⁰ in a Vessel bound for your port also a Trunk of Papers for Colo. [Abishai] Thomas which he wishes to be forwarded to Raleigh to the Care of Col^o Lane—The Papers are for the Gen^l. Assembly I have therefore to sollicit that you endeavour to have them forwarded when the Glass goes—Two days ago I rec^d. Bills in your fav^r. as follows, one on W^m. Bingham esq^r. for 270.50 D^{rs}. one on George Meade esq^r. for 200 D^{rs}. and one on ————— for 17 D^r. amounting in the whole to 487.50. which are held subject to your Order, they were drawn by M^r. Russel of Boston.

No land news here, all things appear dull—for God sake hurry on the Grants for the 500,000, I fear if they do not come on time, the purchasers may decline the bargain—Hall is urgent and enquiring about his, There is reason to fear a falling off of those bargains—I have a line from M^r. Nicholson on my Sale to day; pray hurry my grants, I wish they could be in 4, or five Grants only—go on with the Others, I am sure I shall find some way, if I had once made good my former [2] contract, to secure the purchase Money and fees, to a good advantage—Nicholson has my large Plot and another of 95370 about 8 miles above the other on Clinch, with a desire to sell if at present he doth not wish to purchase, he has an offer of mortgage on them at the

⁸⁰Raleigh was made the capital of North Carolina and "an ugly cheap structure" for a capitol was erected in time for the legislature to meet in on December 30, 1794 (Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 243-245). The glass was for this building.

rate of 44 Cents per acre redeemable on a repayment of the money with Interest in 3 years, I expect an Answer in a few days of which I will write you.—

I have had no letters from you advising me of the necessary preparations to be made for the land Spec. or whether any it appears to me necessary, for the general good, that you would write me oftener and aid me in plans of Operation, you must remember I am but a young hand and want a great deal of advise, I cant get much from the Gov. [William Blount]—You might suggest hints to me of great and real utility which I might never have thought of here, if you would only suggest, I would endeavour to improve and execute the same—but as I am kept here without such mutual aid from your house & the Gov^r., if any lapse should take place I will be accused of misconduct or misjudgment, either of which I should lament, as the scheme of being here is not of my choosing but adopted on the principle of Advise from the Gov^r. as being proper for the general good

I am sire your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA October 23^d. 1794

Dear Sir

On tuesday I received your letter of the 8th. Instant and find nearly as much difficulty in understanding it as you appear to have had in mine, I do not find that you have answered any part of mine except “that I want Wax to shew.”—I have longed to see this to no effect and why the lands sold should be last which can be forwarded me, (as appears by M^r. B’s [Blackledge’s] letters) is strange indeed[.] They were began first and well known to you that the payments are not to commence until the Titles are made, the longer before I get them, the longer will it be before any Funds can be raised from them, and the longer They are delayed The more time is there given to View them, a thing not to be anxiously wished for I think—and I have

suggested to you in some of my letters, that every appearance was that if they passed the time proposed in coming forward, That they would be off the bargain—I can make no sales for more than 9^d. at 8 years Credit and not certain at that[.] write me the lowest price that is to be taken, and when I am to have the grants with me and to what amount—It is bad, to keep me in the dark, so much as I am if I am to do any thing in the business—I can't even say with Certainty whether I have any lands to sell or not or what quantity terms or any thing relative thereto.—In one of your letters you request me to apply to Ketland about the Brig Tuley, I did it and answered all your questions stated Mr. Ketlands answer & proposition to which he requested an Answer thro me, yet no notice is taken of those parts, I am inquired at and can give no Answer thereto. I sent you the prices current for Naval Stores, you say [2] in a letter before mine could have reached you, that the want of this kept you in the dark and doubtful whether to send them here or to New York, now you have received the letter you dont mention any thing relative thereto. altho from the prices I had counted on it and made arrangements for the sale—

I have stated these things to shew you that Short letters and not answering certain parts will not answer the object for which we have set out, if I am to be the apparent Actor, I shall make but a poor figure when I know nothing with precision nor can decide with certainty on any subject. I should wish your letters answered every question I state, if they dont please you answer them accordingly, and advise me better, but anser them, I shall then know how to act, and save me perhaps from some hard rubs.—

The grand objects of all your letter is attended to in some measure, if I am not mistaken I shall send you inclosed 6000 in drafts on the Collectors of Washington & Newbern, one or both—I could not send notes, I am too hard pushed with bills here, and no funds I mean active ones—If your wish is to rise to Character in Credit without profits in N^o. Carolina you shall do it, (even altho I fail which must be the case as things go on) I shall keep you and every *other person* clear except myself.

I am as usual Your Ob^t. Servant

DAVID ALLISON

J G Blount Esquire.

[3] The drafts will go forward on Wednesday next, Mr. Nicholson being out of the City prevents them going to day—perhaps I may send you a larger sum at that period if so the delay will be advantageous

D. ALLISON

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N°. Carolina

Tarboro. post

*Willie Blount to John Gray Blount
with postscript by [William Blount]*

KNOXVILLE October 25th. 1794

Dear Sir,

The first assembly for the Territory met at this place on the fourth monday in August last, at which great unanimity prevailed—the acts of the Governor and Judges were deemed proper, as they were repealed, that is, they admitted the power to make such acts, since they undertook to repeal them—they wanted to declare they were in force but that would not do.

Doctor [James] White is elected a member of Congress[.] the votes were for White eleven, for [William] Cocke seven—the latter mortified a good deal, but bears it tolerably well as yet.

By the law establishing a Treasury department, two Treasurers are required, Howell Tatom is one, and I believe Landon Carter is, or will be the other.

They have declared that the Governor has the right of appointing and commissioning all officers civil and military, except Judges and [2] General Officers, which makes all things straight on that head.

My brother at the request of both Houses, drew a bill to amend the Court law, which met the entire approbation of the assembly, and for which he had their unanimous thanks.—

Please remember me to my sister and family as well as to Reading and his, and believe me to be

Your affectionate
WILLIE BLOUNT

John Gray Blount esquire

P. S. [W^m. Blount's handwriting]

The letter from Willie to you of the 27th [25th., sic] Instant you will readily see has been pened by him for the Press it has best be published as early as may be by way of Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in Knoxville to his Friend in North Carolina.

This Kind of Caption will conceal both the writer and the Person to whom written—I suppose it can be published more readily in Martin's than Hodge's Paper⁸¹ otherwise it will be immaterial in which it is published.—

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
North Carolina

M^r Harvey

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE 26th October 1794

Dear Sir

A man of business should never be in a hurry, (in haste he may & ought always to be) yet when I left Philadelphia I was certainly in a hurry for I forgot to write you that I was going and you may thereby be put to some inconvenience if you have sent forward any commands for me to execute—I had procured to be made for you a sett of Books & D Allison was to forward them—I believe that was all the business I left undone of yours in my hands—I am not highly delighted with this Country, yet much more so than I expected, the Country is in a higher state of improvement than I counted on, and the Town has had a rapid growth, here are *frame Houses & Brick Chimnies*, & the Town is

⁸¹François Xavier Martin of New Bern published the *North Carolina Gazette* and wrote a two-volume history of North Carolina (1829). He also served in various political offices in the State. Martin left North Carolina and moved westward into Mississippi and then into Louisiana, where he became a noted judge (Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, IV, 306-314). Abram Hodge published the *State Gazette of North Carolina* (New Bern). See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 409n. 48.

larger & contains more inhabitants than Washington, [North Carolina] there is in it ten stores & seven Taverns, besides tippling Houses, one Court House *no prison* which they boast of as not being an article of necessity, by the by I have learned since my being here that Rickard has been kind enough to admit several unfortunates into his Block [2] Blockhouse—The Indians continue troublesom but not so much so recently as formerly,—An expedition has lately been carried on against the Lower Cherokees by a Major Ore with 550 men Acting under the orders of Gen^l [James] Robertson, with the most brilliant Success, Two of the most hostile [Indian] Towns, namely Nickajack & running Water, were compleatly surprized & destroyed, upwards of thirty Warriors Killed & nineteen women & Children taken Prisoners, without the loss of a Man, two or three were slightly wounded—this is called *offensive*, the Governor is restricted to *defensive* measures, & therefore *as Governor* is bound to disapprove it, as W. B. [William Blount] I dare believe he is highly gratified, indeed it is spoken of by all ranks as the most brilliant thing that has happened or could have happened for this Country. John Watts⁸² has since sent in peace talks and a string of White Beads to the Governor, & Indian depredations have considerably abated—I purpose being at Raleigh at the Assembly having ordered my Books & Papers to meet, if D. A. should send them by way of Washington I will thank you to give them a cast forward, please present my regards to M^{rs}. B. Reading & his Lucy & believe me as always

Yours

AC. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqre
Washington
N^o. Carolina

M^r. Harvey

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE October 26th 1794

Dear Sir,

For the Want of a Conveyance a considerable Interval has elapsed since I have had the Pleasure of Writing to you.—The

⁸²John Watts was one of the most influential of the Cherokee chieftans.

last letter I have received from you was by Major Farragut. The General Assembly during the Session by one Side Stroke or other cured all Causes of difference of Opinion as to the Powers heretofore exercised by the Governor or as to those which he shall exercise in future leaving him in full Possession of all heretofore exercised and in full Possession of more Popularity than heretofore except for the first two or three months of his administration which was too great to be permanent

It is worthy of Observation that a large Majority of the Representatives were elected no longer ago than last December expressly upon the Ground of their being opposed to the Governor and now even Col. Tipton⁸³ is among his warmest Friends—So changeable is Popularity which I have repeatedly experienced.—Was a new State to take Place shortly it is generally agreed without a negative that I have heard of that I should have a unanimous election to the Senate—How soon the Current may turn is not for Mortal to tell. About a Week past [there] arrived here the agent of the War Department Col. Henly⁸⁴ with upwards of 60,000 dollars in Bank Bills for the Pay of the Militia who have been on Duty for the Protection of the Frontiers, the Pay of Captain Rickard's Compy and the Contingencies of Government a great Portion of which will be forwarded to Mr. Allison at Phila [2] ladelphia as soon as it is paid out which can not be done quite as expeditiously as I could wish

A much larger Sum ought to have come on but the secretaries did not feel themselves authorized to pay General Sevier's Brigade for their Services in 1793 because the service was offensive and only defensive Measures were authorized by the President, the amt. of this Pay is upwards of 29'000 dollars and its not coming on is a great Disappointment as your Friends were deeply interested in it by holding many of the Claims—This service was performed by Order from General [Daniel] Smith in my Absence.

However the Agent says there is no doubt but this Mony will be paid & the secretary of War in a letter to me says a Congressional appropriation is previously necessary which I presume will be easily obtained so that the greatest Damage

⁸³John Tipton, a "soldier, frontier politician" was a rival of John Sevier over the State of Franklin. Earlier he was an opponent of William Blount. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVIII (1931), 562-563.

⁸⁴David Henley, an agent of the War Department.

will be the Want of the Cash for immediate Purposes—Col. Thomas is here in Mr. Allison Business, and will return from this to Raleigh during the Session of the General Assembly probably about the first[,] Col. Donelson will probably accompany him.—

You will find the Bearer Mr. Harvey much recovered he ought to have stayed until Spring when he no doubt would have been quite restored to Health but his anxiety to return home was so great that he could not be prevailed on to stay with us any longer—The inclosed Order will shew you the Sum that I have advanced him.—He had best return [3] here early in the Spring if he does not recover his Health in the Course of the Winter—Bertie has visited the Cherokees & I expect he will return take a Squaw and live in this Country for he appears much pleased [with] both the Indians and this Country.—General Robertson has been here but Farragut omitted to obtain Tho^s Blount's Signature to the Power of Attorney therefore no Division of lands could be made with him—I beg you not to let Mr^a. Grainger want any Thing for her Support and I have moreover to request you to know of her, her wants for it may be that She may not otherwise make known to you such as she may feel.—Mr. Fournier is with me teaching Billy and Richard⁸⁵ French & the former Music I wish you would send your son Thomas next Spring if you cannot get a Place where you suppose he will derive more advantages and if you wish him taught latin it can be done well & cheap by the President of Blount College the Reverend Mr. Carrick⁸⁶ who lives within three Miles of this Place and in the Course of a year the College which is to be erected in this Town will be in Readiness for Tuition.—

Inclosed is a Copy of my Acc^t. with Bryant Ward stated as [was] by Ward stated & to me inclosed, no doubt the 4 Hogsheads of Skins [4] Shiped from Savannah to Newyork and there sold by Mr. John Ramsay by my Order and all the other Charges contained it must be for deliveries to Geo. Ogg and for which he must now be my Debtor.—Not Knowing where Ogg now is I do not write him but I request you to get hold of Wards Bond and to engage Ogg or some other proper Person to go to Ward make a settlment with him and take land or Horses or any Thing for

⁸⁵Billie and Richard were William Blount's sons.

⁸⁶The Reverend Samuel Czar Carrick, a Presbyterian minister. Stanley B. Folmsbee says: "This little private school at the home of Reverend Carrick may be considered the embryo out of which the present University of Tennessee was born." He also gives a more complete sketch of Carrick. *Blount College and East Tennessee College, 1794-1840* (Reprinted from the East Tennessee Historical Society's Publication, No. 17, 1945), No. 1, 23-24.

the Balance and if practicable make a Settlement with Ogg & so provide that the Balance due from him may be stoped in Allison's hands—Upon looking over the a/c Sales of the Goods it will be seen that some Rum & I believe other Articles are charged to the Company in whose Service he then was I believe Clay Tellfair & C^o. these Articles so charged were delivered to Ogg and never paid for to me nor can I say I much expected it but until Ward forwarded to me his a/c I did not suspect such sums had been paid to Ogg—Please present me respectfully to Polly to Reading & Lady and believe me as ever T. B. [Thomas Blount] must be the Senator if possible

Your Brother

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount esq^r

John Smith to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL Nov^r. 4th 1794

Mr. J. G Blount

Sir/ I have the pleasure of Informing you of my Safe arrival at this Port the 30th of Oct^r. in thirty two Days from the Barr; my passage was tolerable Only, I lost in the gale of wind on the banks About half of my Deck load, and had the gale of lasted 48 hours; I would not have Given a Shilling for Vessel or crew, as Long as I have been to Sea, I have never Been so much allarm^d. the Vessel making much water, both pumps chank^d blow [below] and not possible to hoist Either of them out, I realy wish it had been Possible to have pump^d all A. [Atkinson's] tar out or any other mans, that will ship Property as he has done—we have fix^d [his tar] and nothing at preasent with respect to the Tuly Distination [has been learned] waiting an answer from London, which [where] people that Were or are to Load her, live

[2] Naval [Stores] has come to a fine market[.] Tar 22/ to 23/. other naval stores in proportion[.] B^{ls}. Staves if good 10. to 12£ PerM[.] I am also happy to Inform you of the Safe arrival of the Brig Russell, after a passage of 44 Days; She will not sail from this Sooner than 10 or 15 Days, as Mr. Gilchrist & Barry; had not order^d. any thing that Was to come by her, and if I

had not Arrived, they were not agoing to Ship Anything in her; I think that painly Shews the confidence they have in Carolina Farmers I have nothing very particular to add only shall write you how we come on from time to time

I Remain

as usual your most Ob^t

JN^o SMITH

N.B

If my Letter Should not come to hand please Inform my girl that I am well JS my crew together with Toms will not make one for me at present

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r

Merch^t

Washington

N Carolina

John & James Capt Johnston

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. Nov^r. 5th. 1794

D^r Sir

Your favour by Captⁿ. Oneal came safe to hand the Cargo is disposed off as follows. Tar 18/9. Rum 7/. at 60 Days. Staves are a good market[.] your[s] would not stand the Inspection and being but few in number and unable on Acc^t. of health to give proper Attendance, I gave away at 3½ doll^s. so much for my Sales—The Sally⁸⁷ is aground near the Capes[.] her Cargo will be saved[.] The Cost of getting her off will be more than her worth it is thought—the prices of Naval Stores is great I think[.] Tar on the Rise, the day before I sold 17/6 could scarcely be got.

Col^o. Blount is arrived by whom I also had your friendly hint I have bills on the Collectors of your Country for the first sum and will scuffle for the other altho I have not sold, lands now sell here Current at from 8 to 10 Cents and very little at the latter, this need not alarm you I still say I want 2,000,000, Acres in your state[.] the grants for some of which pray forward

⁸⁷This was a Blount vessel which was eventually saved when a Negro workman raised it. He thus accomplished what the white contractors had failed to do.

early[.] If I had a small part [2] say 500, M. I am convinced it would forward a Sale[,] if I can get Funds easily I will meet you at the Assembly where I wish to see you and all your partners you can procure [for] a meeting of that Company to advise on measures where I can see them as tho by Accident. I shall not now communicate the Design[.] it is such as may End well but wont bear telling—I send by Mr. Schenck a Bale of planes—Mr. Blackledge wants have [half] therefore taken [. This explains] the Bale being agreater quantity than you wrote for, his is to be supplied at the Cost and charged to my Account with—The Articles from the house of J B Evens & C^o. will be forwarded as early as possible together with the Shoes & your private Memorandum which I will complete as soon as I can go about

I am With Respect Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Mr Jn^o. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington

Mr. Schenck

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. Nov^r. 5th 1794

Dear Sir,

I arrived here on Monday last at 10 o'Clock in the morning & there was a meeting of the members [of Congress] that had arrived in Town at 11; but they were not enough in number to make a quorum[,] a sufficient number, however, appeared the next day, but the Senate have not a quorum yet & of course no Business has been done—absent from our State this day Mr [Alexander] Martin, Mr [Benjamin] Williams, Mr. [James] Gillespie, Mr. [William Barry] Grove, Mr. [Joseph] McDowell, & Mr. [Joseph] Winston—It is expected that there will not be Senators enough to form a House to do Business until Monday or Tuesday next—our army still continues embodied in the Western Country; but where; or for what purpose is not precisely known to any body that I have seen. it is generally admitted & declared that there are none of that description of people called Insurgents

to be found in arms any where—you will see in the papers brought by M^r Schenk & M^r Stewart a note from M^r. [John] Jay to Lord Grenville on the Subject of injuries done us by the British nation at Sea; & if we may Judge that of his future conduct as Envoy extra. we shall find Sufficient cause to lament that the Dignity, Honor & Interests of our Country have been entrusted to the care of such a pusillanimous Wretch It is certainly the most humiliating production that ever went from the pen of a man So highly honored—while I read, or think of it, I burn with indignation—and I believe that I think & feel on this occasion with the Majority—even his best friends do not yet attempt to justify his conduct—Doct^r. [2] H. [John Hall] Says he will answer your Letter by the next post & send you the needful asked for in the course of 15 or 20 Days—He seems pleased that he has sold but 2 [two hundred] of the 300—& the information I have given him of the quality (quoting you as authority) has induced him to determine not to Sell the other 100. at less than half a Dollar—I too am of opinion it would be best to hold for a time at least if not forever, that quantity among the Comp^s. & that your Surveys ought to be made accordingly so as to reserve it of the best—D. A. [David Allison] is in a very low State of Health; so low, that I am seriously doubtful of his perfect recovery—He has not been well Since he left Caroⁿ. it is therefore indispensibly necessary, in my opinion, to use all possible expedition to close Such Business as you may be concerned with him in—He was pleased with the contents of your Letter & said he could & would provide as you had directed; that arrangements were made & making for bringing all your cares & fears to a speedy close & happy issue—He has not actually Sold but Says he is certain of Selling the whole quantity of—Mentioned to him by yourself & R.B. [Richard Blackledge]—the Clinch [land] is gone at 33 1/3 Cents to amo^t. of 90 . . . 100 Cent P^s. If he lives he will Surprise you very agreeably indeed, & soon—I suppose I need not tell you that the Sloop Sally is cast away—Stewart & Barr yesterday Shewed me a Letter to you containing the particulars of her Situation & the measures they have taken & determined to pursue—I have not Seen Ketlands' but Allison tells me they are Satisfied fully [with] your conduct. M^r. Schenck has a vessel that will sail from here for Washington about the middle or 20th of this Month & [3] by her I shall endeavor to send to your address Sundries for



to be found in arms any where—you will see in the papers brought by M^r Schenk & M^r Stewart a note from M^r. [John] Jay to Lord Grenville on the Subject of injuries done us by the British nation at Sea; & if we may Judge that of his future conduct as Envoy extra. we shall find Sufficient cause to lament that the Dignity, Honor & Interests of our Country have been entrusted to the care of such a pusillanimous Wretch It is certainly the most humiliating production that ever went from the pen of a man So highly honored—while I read, or think of it, I burn with indignation—and I believe that I think & feel on this occasion with the Majority—even his best friends do not yet attempt to justify his conduct—Doct^r. [2] H. [John Hall] Says he will answer your Letter by the next post & send you the needful asked for in the course of 15 or 20 Days—He seems pleased that he has sold but 2 [two hundred] of the 300—& the information I have given him of the quality (quoting you as authority) has induced him to determine not to Sell the other 100. at less than half a Dollar—I too am of opinion it would be best to hold for a time at least if not forever, that quantity among the Comp^s. & that your Surveys ought to be made accordingly so as to reserve it of the best—D. A. [David Allison] is in a very low State of Health; so low, that I am seriously doubtful of his perfect recovery—He has not been well Since he left Caro⁻. it is therefore indispensibly necessary, in my opinion, to use all possible expedition to close Such Business as you may be concerned with him in—He was pleased with the contents of your Letter & said he could & would provide as you had directed; that arrangements were made & making for bringing all your cares & fears to a speedy close & happy issue—He has not actually Sold but Says he is certain of Selling the whole quantity of—Mentioned to him by yourself & R.B. [Richard Blackledge]—the Clinch [land] is gone at 33 1/3 Cents to amo^t. of 90 . . . 100 Cent P^s. If he lives he will Surprise you very agreeably indeed, & soon—I suppose I need not tell you that the Sloop Sally is cast away—Stewart & Barr yesterday Shewed me a Letter to you containing the particulars of her Situation & the measures they have taken & determined to pursue—I have not Seen Ketlands' but Allison tells me they are Satisfied fully [with] your conduct. M^r. Schenck has a vessel that will sail from here for Washington about the middle or 20th of this Month & [3] by her I shall endeavor to send to your address Sundries for



my friends at Tarb°. & one or two light articles for Sharpe [Blount]—I was Scarcely well enough to perform the journey—at Port Royal I really expected to make my exit—but since getting a little over the fatigues of the Journey, I feel much better—I am however in a very bad State of health as you must naturally conclude when I tell you that I have not been clear of a fever Since I saw you & have had about three agues, or Severe chills; every 24 hours on the average⁸⁸

present me to your famliy

& believe me as usual

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Washington

Fav^d by Mr. Schenck

William Charles Lake to John Gray and Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL 6th Nov^r. 1794

J G. & Tho. Blount Esq^{rs}.

Gen^t.

I did myself the pleasure to write to you on the 8th. Ult^o. informing you of the arrival of the Russel. I have now the satisfaction to acquaint you with the Tuleys arrival after a Passage of 32 days. Mess^{rs}. Jn^o & Ja^s Ketland & C^o. of London have authorized their correspondents Mess^{rs}. Lowther & M^cVicar of this Town to abide by the agreement made by their friends in Philadelphia for the Tuley to go thither, she is now discharging and in 30 days after she is unloaded I shall hope Mess^{rs}. Lowther & M^cVicar will have her ready for Philadelphia—the insurance I presume is made on this Voyage agreeable to your Letter of the 26th. July: I woud think it advisable (if your Policies of insurance don't provide for it) to include in the Policy the risque of interception from Foreign Powers as the [2] French seem to have no settled rule of action and are in the practice of occasionally taking American Vessells. The Russell will sail in 10 days if she meets no detention from Mess^{rs}. Gilchrist & Barry whose Goods I understand were not order'd until the Tuley made her appearance. The Russell will have on board Salt & the other

⁸⁸Many references to the prevalence of the ague occur in these letters.

Goods agreeable to your abstract, and the Goods from this House, if ready, but I shall follow your directions in not letting them cause unreasonable delay at this advanced Season of the year. I shall insure the Russell & her Cargo agreeable to your instructions.

I have have sold the Russells Virginia Bbl Staves for £12 & Hh^d. at £16 and hope to obtain a proportionable sale for those by the Tuley and expect to get 21/ or 22/ for the Tar: at these prices I exceedingly regret that these Cargos were not your own: it is my opinion that during the War American products will continue to sell high. I shall have the pleasure of writing more fully to you by the Russell; 'till then subscribe myself truley

Gen^{tn}. Your most Obed Serv^t

W^m. CHA. LAKE

Addressed: J: G: & Tho: Blount Esq^{rs}
 Washington
 North Carolina
 p the Mercator via Boston

John Smith to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL Nov^r. 8th 1794

M^r. John G. Blount

I have the pleasure of Informing you of my Safe arrival at This port the 30th of Oct^r. after a tolerable passage of 32 days from the Barr. we This day are inform^d. by the Ketlands of London that the Brig Tuley must Proceed for Phila^a. with a load as soon as possible which I hope will be within the limited time as I Expect to have the Tuley all clear for taking in in 6 or 7. Days. the Russell arrived about 4 weeks ago after a Very disagreeable passage of 44 Days. She will be, I Suppose ready to Sail for your place in about 10 Days; She would have been ready by This time, but M^r. Gilchrist & Barry had not order^d. anything, before my arrival nor would not had I not arrived; which of Course Occations the Russels delay I Shall be able to write you in ful By the Russell—and [2] and I have to Request; as the Tuleys fright Is payable in Phil^a. that you will be So Obliging as to request your Brother Thomas Blount at that place to pay me the Cash for the am^t of primage as I shall much want it if I proceed

from that place home which I Certainly Expect. D[Dam]. Carolina for Ship building, for the Tuley Kept us well Employ^d. at the pump & at Tar. the Russell Tom Says behaved worse than Ever

I am sir most Ob Se
JN^o SMITH

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington
NCarolina
pr Ship Mirentor via Boston

John Allen to John Gray Blount

[November 9, 1794]

Sir/ when I wrote you by M^r. Bernard I was much hurried I was Just Return'd from Compleeting my work below—and by Washington Court Shall have done in Hyde—M^r. Sillbey wanted to be informed what Number of Warrents you would want But it was not in my power to inform him untill I had Run Jones & Davies line up Pungo River and then make a Calcalation of the whole—I have indeavour'd to find out M^r. Swanseys—observation & Remarks on the Defrent [different] parts of the Lands that he has Seen But he is Very Secret in his Remarks which he Notes down. tho from what I Can learn from his Conversation he Likes the Land and thinks it Rich and Very advantagesly Situated, and according to his & my Calcalation we find the fall to be Much more than has Gen^{ly}. Been Supposed by any Person that has given their opinion on the Subject—he Seems to be much Pleas'd with the Land—Between mattemusk [Mattamuskeet⁸⁹] Lake and the Sound that is from the Indian line up to Rose Bay and also the Survey I first made Lying Between the Lake Long Shale River and Allegator River he thinks all this Land Easey dreaned [to drain]—and very Rich—He also Spoke favourable of the Land up Pungo River—tho he has only Seen the Poorest of that Part.—I Shall Shew him where Ratliff Lives before he Leaves this County—he has fell

⁸⁹For location of Lake Mattamuskeet see "Map of North Carolina" in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 64.

in love with the Land Between Rose Bay & Broad Creek—and John Jordan tills him that Part belongs to Mr. Blackledge—and I have told also and Likewise Pointed Out to him that Blackledge owned all the Land from Pantego to Long Acres and that you had nothing to do with them Lands—Since I left the Lake I am informed that to the Eastward of Long Shole & west of Parchcom [Parchcorn] Bay their Lyes a Juniper Swamp⁹⁰ which on further information will be worth your attention—it far Exceeds any I have heard of—I have got the perticklers noted down—Shoud this Come to hand before Major Blount Sets of for Pungo be So good as to Send me 6 or 8 £ to Enable me to Settle all my little Expenses before I Leave the County—Please tell Major Blount I have appointed to Settle with Gaylord our dispute on the 17th instant and hope he will not fail to Come—[2] as I Can not have it done with out him—and must be done this Side of Court [before Court convenes]—

I am Sir your Verry Hble Servatn

JN^o. ALLEN

PUNGO Nov^r. 9th 1794.

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

*William Blount to Thomas Hart**

KNOXVILLE, November 18th 1794

Dear Sir

I introduce to your acquaintance the bearer Captain John [Chisholm, sic] The object is to afford you an opportunity to inquire respecting the large surving [surveying, sic] of Henderson & Co. near this place with which he is pretty well acquainted and that I may have the Pleasure of hearing from you and your family by his Return. He is my nearest neighbor and can answer any inquiries you may please to make respecting mine.—I have

⁹⁰Juniper trees, coniferous evergreens, grew in eastern North Carolina. The toughness of the fiber made this wood particularly suitable for house-roofing shingles.

*From the Blount Collection (1780-1834 microfilm enlargement). (The North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh.)

written you two letters since I received one from you—Be pleased to present me affectionately to your lady and believe me with the sincerest esteem & Respects,

Your obedient Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

Col. Thomas Hart
Lexington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. Nov^r. 20th. 1794

Dear Sir

Mr. James Grant who is at this place sets off for Baltimore for the purpose of presenting the Bills to Mr. Jafferys and having them accepted or protested, on to morrow morning the success of which he is requested to give you in this letter and in case they are protested to inclose them and forward you by Post or some safe Conveyance—I wrote you a letter by each of the two last Posts, the first inclosing you the first of several Setts of Bills on the Collectors of Washington & NewBern for amount of six thousand dollars the other inclosing the duplicate of those bills, both which I hope are safe to hand By next Post I will endeavour to procure and forward six thousand on the Collector of Wilmington, I have also been in my Sickness anxiously contriving to pay Mr. John Hogg six thousand for Paper at 10/6. but whether I can effect this or not is still doubtful as I am & have been cursedly harassed with acceptances from the West now due—No effort will be wanting to furnish the necessary in due time, but those efforts are now small, I have been but once out of the house since the arrival of Mr. [Thomas] Blount and when I shall be able is yet doubtful⁹¹—but still you are not to fear I shall have some mode to raise the [2] money and depend on the 2,000,000 Acres I have not yet sold but can for 9^d. if I can compass the Advance without selling and cant get more than that sum, I go or send to Europe where I am sure I can sell at 8/. at least—Young [Gouverneur] Morris is returned and from him this great expectation is gathered—if report says true, lands generally in the US. sell from 8/. or a dollar to one half Guinea P^rAcre, to

⁹¹Allison was not feigning illness. His health was in a precarious state, probably occasioned by worry and over exertion.

account for this extravagant price it is observed that all the money of Holland is removed to England for safety, the Hollanders are still dubious of that and wish it Vested in America, they cant get Stock sufficient nor can They with safety or convenience transport their Cash, Land then is their surest & only stake—If this plan can be effected good drafts and Certificates of the land must be obtained and the reality of its being to be found and clear of disputes with a number of &c. &c.—Several attempts have been made to effect the advance but cant say whether I shall succeed or not, be it as it may you shall have the earliest notice—M^r Wheaton is here I have taken his land at 9^d. to include in my sale, *leaving room for a small profit*, I found this necessary for a number of Reasons, one of which is to prevent too many sellers appearing here.

I am D^r Sir Your Ob^t Servant
DAVID ALLISON

J G Blount esquire

P. S. give my Complts to M^r Blackledge I am too unwell to write him this post.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Tarboro post

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. November 27th. 1794

Dear Sir

I find by your letters to M^r. Blount that you are again let loose upon me for not writing, I can vouch for my Conduct in that way to have been uniform by nearly every Post but that of the Carriage I cant vouch for—I have written you the fate of the Sally—the forwarding 6,000 Dollars on the Collectors of Washington and NewBern—And will now tell you things which will alarm you more than even the presentment of the Grand Jury of Fayetteville⁹²—I have made no Sale nor can I as yet

⁹²See the Presentment of Grand Jury of the Fayette District, October Term, 1794 in Papers for 1790-1795 in this volume, page 654.

for Cash to answer my Views, I have had offers that were good but they were Credit & I would not embrace them However I am not yet alarmed I will be *Damned* or have the money with you before January—I have several money holders in tow to whom I have made offers which, I am sure, if they love money, they cant reject.

The particulars are so various that I will not now enumerate them only be assured it will be had on some terms or other and therefore you are not to loose hopes, but to proceed to complete the Titles for 2,000,000, as early as you can, In getting the money I have to bind the delivery of 1,000,000 Grants before the first day of Feb^y. I mention this for your direction

—What the devil have Grand Juries to do with the business are they to direct whether I shall be permitted to use my money ligally, or that I must use only a part and keep the other in the Strong Box—damn them & their foreman—He is a Rippy [2] he has anxiously wished to be concerned with Wheaton & because he failed, he has turned sides—

Pray urge M^r Blackledge to hurry lest the Assembly may of their infinite Wisdom & Goodness attempt once more to vacate entries. I would Write him but other Writing and a Continuation of the cursed North Carolina Fever which has confined me to the house since the first of the Month prevent.

Hereafter when you dont receive letters charge it to the Post or your bad Fortune for believe me you dont attend to that part as much as I do, every post or safe conveyance I write you

Your Anxieties cant be greater than mine that the land project may succeed which I have no doubt of provided I can only grasp 80,000 D^{rs}. at present

I am D^r. Sir as usual Your Ob^t. Servant

DAVID ALLISON

I have again to urge that you forward the Grant for the 201,000 Tract on Clinch and if the Works have come to the Secretarys Office for the 95370 Acre d^o. on D^o. that you send it also along as I can do nothing without them—We loose at the rate of near 5,000 per Annum for the delay—I write Governor Blount to morrow morning to send the Works if they are not already forwarded and that the Grant come in my Name this [3] will save trouble in conveying and perhaps be better on other principles as to quality, you know how good the Certi-

ificates were—and *they are not true*—I send by Mr. Wheaton the deed for the large Tract to be regularly authenticated by you in a good Form and sent back to me with the Grant, I cant convey without—

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

North Carolina

Tarboro post

William Charles Lake to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL Dec^r 11th 1794

J G & Tho^s. Blount Esq^{rs}.

Copy Original P[er] Tuley

Gent^t.

I last did myself the pleasure of writing to you by your Brig Russell under date 22^d. Nov^r. copy of which I inclose, she sail'd from hence on the 24th. & not having heard any thing from her since conclude she has got expeditiously out of our Channel & hope she has arrived safe with you. The present goes by your Brigg Tuley Cap^t. Jn^o. Smith via Philadelphia, under the charter you made for her to that Port. In her I have put the residue of your order for Goods transmitted to me by her, agreeable to Bill of Lading & Invoice inclosed amounting to £38.11.8 to your debit. I also inclose the amount of the few Disbursements I have paid in the necessary assistance I have given to Cap^t. Smith in going through the Port business here the amount £36.17.6 at your Debit. You will also receive inclosed [2] additional Disbursements on the Russel since her sailing amount £24.12.11 to the debit of your Account[.] they consist of Money paid to a discharged Seaman & for a Month's advance to Seamen in lieu of those who deserted from Cap^t. Smith all which are chargeable to their respective accounts. You will also receive my Account Current Bal^{ce} £177.11.11½ in my favor. I had previous to receipt of your Letter advised Mr. R^d. Lake of having placed the £20 to your debit. You will see a charge of £10.33 for Debenture on Irish linen P the Russell on her former Voyage which was (by a late rule)

objected to as not being British Property: in the present Instance I have guarded against this by making the Persons from whom I have bought them consider them as *their* Property until the Debenture is received and shall pursue this Plan in future. On examining the account if free from Error you will please note it accordingly. I have not yet sold the Tuley's staves[,] Tar & Honey as I expect the price of these articles will rise. I had just time by the Russell to acquaint you that a treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation was enter'd [3] into with the united States the particulars have not yet transpired & I suppose will not until a ratification has taken place. I doubt not but it is copious & such as is entirely calculated to put the trade between the two countries on the most pleasant footing—this circumstance with the state of General War that other Countries are unfortunately involved in must give spirit & vigour to your infant growing States—As a continuance of the French War with additional exertions appears to be determined upon the Produce of America I think must keep up at all the European Markets & I shall be happy in my continuance to render you acceptable services here being Gen^t.

Your most obed^t. Servant

W^m. CHA. LAKE

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a, 11th Dec^r. 1794

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 26th Ult^o. is rec^d. & I am sorry to find by it that the loss of the Sally is so severely felt, for I fear she will not be got off this Winter—However that fear arises only from Hammond's silence & may prove groundless—We have not heard from him since Fullerton left him & what we then & before heard I wrote you on Thursday last—Allison is pleased with your information & in His Letter of this day will give some equally pleasing to you in return for it—I hope the basting that you calculate on getting at the Assembly will be less severe than you have imagined & the foundation of that hope is the opinions expressed by the Caro^r. Gentleman, that are & have been here, of the Fayetteville presentment—[Wil-

liam Barry] Grove declares himself for Country's Sake ashamed of it & hopes the publication of it will be suppressed; & Jn^o. Hogg said unequivocally that it was the most ridiculous & scandalous thing both in principle & Diction that he had ever seen any where. The Bill for raising the pay of the Non Com^d. Off^{rs}. & privates of the Militia was this day read a second time in the H^o. of Rep. & ordered to be Engrossed without a dissenting voice; if, therefore, it should not get killed in the Senate, it will assuredly pass into a Law—and I have given Notice that I will to-morrow move for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the pay of the Commissioned officers of the Militia with a view to its reduction; but the fate of the motion is doubtful. I however, am not without hope of its' success—Flour has risen at this place & New-York to 9½ @ 10 Doll^s. P Bill. but for what reason no person that I have conversed with can tell—No News from the Tuley or Russel—The Cap^t. of a Vessel that arrived here [2] a few days from Liverpool which place he left about the 20th Octo- heard nothing of either—Polly's easy Chair & Cloak will be ready to take passage in the first Vessel that offers—tell Reading & Lucy [Blount] if their Girl was a boy I could from my heart wish them joy—But Girl as it is I can only wish them good Luck with it—Remember me to all friends—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

When shall I begin to direct for you to Raleigh? The Bill I expected on Hogg is not yet obtained but will be by next post.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r

Washington

N^o Carolina

Mail via Halifax and Tarborough

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Dec^r. 12th. 1794.

Dear Sir/

I arrived here this Morning & have in the Course of the Day only Changed about £200. tho' have a Disposition made to Change more Tomorrow, I wrote Gen^l Smith I was here and

would be glad to know how much he wanted to which I have not yet any Answer, but expect a Little he does not want any as M^r Mallet says he has learn'd that Smith give property in S^o. Carolina for the Money in his hands so that I expect he Means to be prepared for the Worst, His Surveyers are at Work Report says he Means to Compleat his Grants before the Assembly—As I Come through Bladen, I learned that Lewis the Member through Browns & others Stimulations had Just Returned from presenting their Petition to the Governor and got for Answer he should be governed by the Law that was made for him to go by—And they have now him Concerned tho' I Cannot Trace where the Report Comes from.

M^r Ogg was much Displeased at the Parragraff in your Letter saying that Allison wished [in order] to prevent Suspicion [Suspicion] that apart of the Land should be in all the Countys, your Letter to me of the 23rd. of October ordering me to enter no more Land I shewed him and on talking over the Subject he seemed vexed about the entrys made in Onslow, Jones & Carteright [Carteret] & Asked who was Concerned in that[.] I told him & Allison, he said a Concern was taken with them as fair as it Could be and None given where it Could be prevented & is Determin'd to have his right, It appears to me from my Idea of things that this Man wants if Possible to rais a Squabble With you and the Company in order that they may draw their Lands and that he may be sent on to sell them You have Mearly the Statement & my Opinion. You'l observe he did not Ask me if I was Concerned in the Jones onslow & [2] Carteright Lands. of Course a reply Could not be given[.] I told them of my Lake Plan & your Disapprobation. Col^o Porterfield in the Course of Speaking expressed with Anger that it was Needless to say more on the Subject for that no man on Earth should perswaid him you'd Injure him or any other Man that had placed any Confidence in you but find that Allison will be left to git 100,000 Acres by Deed from you, which Jn^o. Porterfield will agree to be in Moore if you'l only allow him the Like Quantity any where Else. tho' Col^o [James, *sic*] Porterfield said he did not Care where it was given from if It met your Approbation—You are to be prepared therefore to give such Satisfaction as M^r Ogg may require, Could a Sail be Effected It is my Opinion that the Discount Aught to be made of the expences

and aproportion of the Land as Near as Could be be given to M^r Ogg & with his own Sale he Might be Content[.] think and do as you please I am

Dear Sir Your Ob^t. Servant.

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Allum Salt by the q^{tr}. [in large quantities, sic] a Dollar
fine Salt ab^t 10/—

15,000 B^s. Salt arrived here in a few Days & Considerable moore expected. Tar 14/— Rice 3 D^s. Pitch 18/. Turp 13/6 Rosin 21/. Tobacco 3 D^s. Pork 9 D^s. Corn & pease half a Doll. Shingles 1 Doll. Pitch pine Lum⁻ 5 D^s. Lard 14^d Tallow 16^d Beeswax 3/— Jam^a Rum 14/. N. E. Rum 10/6 Ap⁻ Brandy 9/ PGall^s P the Hhd. Mus⁻ Sugar 14^s. Molasses 8/. In port 12 to 15 Sail of Large Ships & Briggs mostly English Bottoms—

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount⁹³

PHIL^a. 21st. Dec^r. 1794

Dear Sir,

Nothing further has yet been heard of Hamond and as the weather has been remarkably Mild, as much so almost as it has usually been in this Lattitude in the Months of September & October, I am compelled to conclude that all his Efforts to get the Sloop off have proved ineffectual and Such Conclusion cannot be well drawn—without Supposing a deal of mismanagement or neglect of Duty somewhere—I sometime ago desired Mess^{rs}. Stewart & Barr to give the necessary Instructions relative to the dispositions of her Sails & Rigging in case there Should be found a necessity for quitting her until the Spring, & presume they have done so—She cannot be sold as She lies, at this place, at any price & what might be done on the Spot is not known for Hammond has been Silent, as I before observed, on this & every other subject & our best endeavors to get a man to go down & survey her, have proved fruitless—M^r Barr would have gone

⁹³This is very clearly a political letter. Thomas Blount did not ordinarily write with this degree of wordiness and tedium. He is overly conscious of the approaching election.

down himself, if his health & the nature of his Business had permitted, but unfortunately they did not—so much for the Sloop Sally—Whose fate may perhaps have been but the effect of her name—and now for Politics!—

The Bill to regulate the pay of the non Com^d. officers, Musicians & privates of the Militia of the United States when called into actual Service, & for other purposes, passed by the H^o. of Rep. on the 12th Ins^t, is agreed to by the Senate with amendments to that Clause only that relates to the augmentation of the pay of the non Com^d. Officers Musicians & privates of the Military Establishment. You may therefore assert with confidence (although [2] the amendment proposed by the Senate is not yet agreed to by the H^o. of Rep. & the Bill cannot become Law until it is or some compromise takes place on the subject of it) That the future pay of the Militia will be as in a former Letter I mentioned to you—viz^t. Serjeant Major & Quarter Masters' Serjeant, ca [about], 9 Dollars—Senior Musicians, ca, 8 1/3—Serjeant, 8—Corporals, Drummers & Fifers, ca, 7 1/3—Private 6 2/3—P Month. which are the precise Rates of the Establishment made for our regular army in the year 1775—But my Motion for the reduction of the Pay of the Commissioned officers to the same standard, in spite of all my Efforts to Support it, failed—Yeas 29—Nays 50—The objections to it were that it would be a degradation to the officers of the Militia to serve for less pay than the officers of the Military Establishment, & that the pay of the officers of the Military Establishment was already too low, & so much so, that the best of them had already quit the Service & others were resigning daily—I declared that the object of the motion was not to degrade the Militia Officers nor did I mean by it to acknowledge that they were inferior either as men, or as officers, to the Officers of the Military Establishment—that I brought it forward because I knew it accorded with the wish of the people I had the honor to represent; & would endeavor to support it, because it accorded with my own opinion of propriety & Justice—And here I observed, that to shew that the difference between the pay of the Officer & the pay of the private, in a militia composed of all the people of the Country, ought not to be so great as it now is, or much greater than the actual difference between the cost of the Cloathing & arms of the one, & the cloathing & Arms of the other, it was only necessary to consider, that the private as well as the officer purchased his own

cloathing & arms—that they are both bound by the Same Laws to march when order'd—& that when they [3] actually left their domestic concerns, their families & their homes, the Sacrifices of the private were at least equal to the Sacrifices of the Officer—that the true cause of the repeated augmentations of the pay of the officers in the late war, while that of the Soldiers was kept Stationary, was the Depreciation of the Money which peculiarly affected them, they having to purchase their own Cloathing & arms, while the privates were furnished with both by the public—that now when there was no Such thing as Depreciation, or, if there was, both would be alike affected by it, as both were required to furnish their own arms & their own Cloathing, I thought it perfectly just & right that a strict & general recurrence Should be had to the old Establishment. which would still leave the private in arrear, to the full amount of his arms & Cloathing—That the pay of Officers on the Military Establishment ought not to be regarded as a Guide in fixing the pay of the Militia officers; because to induce Gentlemen of fair Character, good Talents & the highest Military skill to relinquish their pretensions to Civil employments, abandon their private pursuits, & quit the peaceful & agreeable scenes of domestic Life, & accept Commissions in a Service that was limited in its' duration to a few years, I believed there was an absolute necessity for giving higher pay than it would be necessary or proper to give to the same men if the Establishment was permanent, or, if they were Militia Officers liable only to be called on to perform three months Service in any one year & in due rotation with all other Officers of equal rank in the Battalion to which they belonged—as, in the first case, their Employment would be for life, or during their own pleasure; & in the second, their Sacrifices would be of the common Kind, such as ever Man, that [4] is liable to do Militia Duty, whether officer or private, may in his turn be called on to make—That, therefore, it was not because I consider'd Militia officers inferior to the officers of the Military Establishment, for really I entertained No such opinion, that I had proposed a reduction of the pay of the former unconnected with a proposition for the reduction of the pay of the latter—that I thought the pay of the latter too high & would have introduced a motion for the reduction of it, if I had not seen & heard pretty good Evidence that the opinion of the Majority of the House was opposed to it— & that I would chearfully con-

sent to such an amendment to my Motion as would make it include the officers of the Military Establishment if any Gentleman who thought a difference would be a degradation to the Militia officer would propose it: for that to degrade that description of men, or any other, I was as little inclined as any other Gentleman in the House or, perhaps, in the world.—

This, Sir, is the reasoning upon which I founded my opinion that it was proper to raise the pay of the privates & lower the pay of the officers of the Militia; But if I had not been of that opinion, knowing, as I did when I came here, that my Constituents were, I should have considered it my duty to exert my best abilities to support it: for I have always deemed it a primary Duty of a Representative of the people to yield his opinion to that of his Constituents on all Subjects which they have had as good an opportunity as himself of investigating, provided he knows their opinion & the knowledge of it is conveyed to him in writing or verbally, as in the present case, by way of Instruction—and on that principle, while I have the honor to be a Representative of my fellow Citizens, I shall always act.—Information was given me by the last post that John M. Binford has declared himself a [5] Candidate for Congress, & although it is probable that he may get a great many Votes in N^o. Ampton & I have reason to believe that his object in offering is merely to break my interest there to serve his friend Doctor Leigh who would, if he could, create Insurrection on Earth & tumult in Heaven to deprive me of the confidence of the people of the District & get himself into my present place, it does not in the smallest degree alarm me.—My wish is, that the people should have choice of many & chose the best; for tho' it would very highly gratify me to be rechosen, as a reelection would be the best & strongest Evidence of the continuation of the confidence of my Fellow Citizens which I am conscious of having honestly endeavor'd to deserve, I wish not to hold any office, or appointment that could be better filled by any other person willing to accept it.—Here I am interrupted by the entrance of Cap^t. Hammond who tells me he has just left the Sloop Sally at Anchor before the City—She was got off by the Negroe on Friday Morning last. Hammond says the injury She has rec^d. may be repaired in one day & M^r Barr, who is now with me, says she shall be repaired tomorrow & sail the next day, or day after, say Wednesday, for Washington—The Negroe is a clever fellow & for

his industry & perseverance in opposition to the discouragements thrown in his way by Rascals who wished the Sloop to be until the Spring that they might have an opportunity of buying her for about 1/8th of her Value, & for his confidence in the honor of the owners of her—I have directed M^r. Barr to give him 20 Dollars in addition to the £60 which he is entitled to by Contract—and I doubt not but you will, when you see Hammond, approve the order—You may assure yourself that no time shall be lost in getting her [6] away from this place her Crew, except Andrew Fullerton, have Stuck to her—She will bring what you order'd from S. [Stuart] & Barr—Polly's Cloak & easy Chair, some porter for Sol. Sessums [sic] & a few other very small articles only—I commit this Letter to the care of Doct^r. Williamson who will with it deliver what you will like a great better—Remember me to all friends in the family & out of it—

Yours &^c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

fav^d by Doc^r Williamson

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 26th. Dec^r. 1794

Dear Sir,

The Sloop Sally, after receiving the necessary repairs & taking on board the articles you order'd from Stewart & Barr & a few others from me for Persons who honored me with Memorandums, sailed from here yesterday at 4 o'Clock in the afternoon for Washington where I hope this Letter will find her Safe—Doctor Williamson who was to have left here on the 22^d. Instant is here yet but tells me he will certainly Start to-morrow—I hope no injury will arise to you from this delay—he will tell you that it could not be avoided & that you may believe for I know exertions have not been Spared—Doctor Hall has returned from Virginia & is very anxious to hear from you Substantially—He says that for the remaining 100—he could easily get a Dollar but will not Sell—If from the nature of your Contract

with him you have the option to sell or hold your [2] Eighth, it would perhaps be best to hold—He has not paid me any more money yet, but says he will do so very Soon—

I begin to entertain some Hope that D. A. [David Allison] will recover his health but he is yet confined to the House—I have heard that it is expected that [William R.] Davie will consent to be Senator; pray let me know as soon as you get to Raleigh whether that is true, & if not, who will be—I mentioned to Mr. [Nathaniel, sic] Macon what you desired me⁹⁴ & he heartily assented to it; you will therefore consider yourself at liberty to concert with his friends and plan that they & you may deem expedient for the public good—I have not attempted to removal of the Lighted Beacon from Shell Castle to Beacon Island but wait to hear from you again on the subject after the meeting of the assembly—Do you wish to have it removed at all Events, or, only in case the assembly, should again refuse to cede Shell Castle? By calling for Copies of the Instructions [3] to the Engineers empowered to build forts for the protection of the ports & harbours, I have had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the Secretary of War who says he considers me His greatest Enemy & the dreadful consequence to the Government is to be his resignation, which we are told is to happen in a few days.⁹⁵ How I shall be able to answer to the charge of having contributed to the driving so *valuable* an officer out of office, let *hi[s co]nduct speak—It is said there it to be a general cha[nge] in the Ministry in the course of next Month & God Grant that it may be for one better

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: M John G Blount

Washington

Nº. Carolina

Doct. Williamson

⁹⁴He probably refers to William Blount's suggestion that Thomas Blount be made Senator. See William Blount to John Gray Blount, Knoxville, July 29, 1794, page 420, above.

⁹⁵Henry Knox was Secretary of War. He was succeeded by Timothy Pickering in 1795. If political differences was the cause of Thomas Blount's dislike of Knox, he was not better situated with Pickering, one of the most bitter partisans in American history.

* The manuscript is marred.

LETTERS FOR 1795

*John Gray Blount to Thomas Hart¹**RALEIGH January 6th 1795Col^o Hart

Sir

I am this moment informed by Col^o Burton² that under some Law: That part of Henderson & C.^{os} Lands which lie on Green River³ is in danger of being sold for the Taxes but I cannot conceive that if the title of any part of them is in Orphans [owned by orphans, *sic*] that can be done. However that is doubtful as your Deed to Col^o. Salter was prior to your title and consequently you could convey no title shall therefore count on your paying up the taxes & saving the Land from being sold even should the Estate be obliged to refund you the money And should it be found on a fare statement of the facts to be just they should do so I will remit you a Bill on Philadelphia for the amount.

The Estate of Col^o. Salter is at present much press'd for his Debts and no way can be devised by his Executors to save the Family from ruin but the sale of those Lands, which by his will they are empowered to make, but the unfinished State in which they always have been & now are, puts it out of their power to do that with advantage. I must therefore solissit you as the friend of Col^o. Salter to use your influence to accomplish that matter And as you are now settled in that Country perhaps it may be your interest and wish to give an equal number of Acres in Powells Valley that may be coming to Salters Estate in Green River, should that be the case you will soon be enabled to give a new Deed for the whole as I understand the Court of the South Western territory have decreed a division of those Lands.

I shall be much obliged by a Line from you on the subject by return of Col^o. Burton that I may endeavour to make arrangements to save Col^o. Salters family from total ruin.

Our old friend Col^o. W^m. Smith laid in a Claim for me for one thousand Acres of Land on Brashecoses Creek⁴ And I empowered

* This is either a copy or an unmailed letter.

¹See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 8n. 14, for a sketch of Thomas Hart.

²This was evidently Robert Burton. He had served in the Revolutionary War and was promoted to the rank of colonel. Afterward he was a member of the Council of State and served as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Wagstaff, *Papers of John Steele*, II, 710n. 2.

³Richard Henderson and others had laid claims to the Kentucky lands lying along the Green River, which flows into the Ohio about 200 miles below Louisville.

⁴John Gray Blount was a member of the Transylvania Land Company.

& paid him the necessary sum to secure the same but several years lapsed without my hearing anything from Col^o. Smith and I was advised by my Brother William to send a Power of Attorney to a Mr. John Smith an Attorney at Law I believe and of the family of Col^o. Preston—

Since sending that Power I have not heard anything from him And from Col^o. Burtons information I am doubtful that Land may be sold and all my hopes of reward for my time & trouble spent in that Country [Kentucky] lost: which exclusive of the loss will be a great mortification for I set more by that property than any other I have a prospect of I must therefore solisit your attention and friendship and request that you will make enquiry and if necessary demand as much money as will pay the taxes or otherwise secure the Land And I will on notice have this money refunded in Philadelphia.

the short notice I have of Col^o. Burtons intentions puts it out of my power to give you any of the news of this place must threr fore refer you to him

Mr Harts relations so far as I have heard are all well: And that part of them composed of my Brothers all bid fare to become numerous

You will please present her my best wishes And believe me with much respect & esteem

Your most Obedent Humble Servant

J G. BLOUNT

David Allison to John Gray Blount

January 9th. 1795—

D^r Sir

I know your uneasiness which I can assure you I feel and am equally so, but did you know the exertions used and the difficulties I had to encounter I think you would in some measure excuse—I have had attempts at the bank daily for discounts but none could be had heretofore, new Directors being now chosen they are going into operation again and I have assurances from some of them that mine will be done today, it is money actually due me but in paper, if they discounted I shall send you fifty thousand dollars in addition to my first in bills and that by D^r. Williamson. no time shall be lost

in relieving you (I think it would nearly cure my ague) if I succeed to day you may count on an Express being with you in a day or two from your receiving this—I have sold the land say two million five hundred thousand Acres at 1/. if the Titles arrive all before the 1st. Feb^y. if not then at 12 Cts. at 1.2.3 & 4 years—however I hope you have with the Company agreed to take 9^d. the Exertions and difficulty in raising the money will not well justify a greater price—I will send you the Articles of Agreem^t. next Post, it must be kept a secret from Wheaton⁵ [2] until I get his land all secured as I get all his at 9^d. and the 3^d. in 500,000 Acres is an Object—Hush since my selling to Cha^s. R. Arthur (my name would not do so well) I have made thro' him some proposals which as to price are not objected to Monday is set to finish them I just give you a small hint, by which you will know what quantity you must get in North Carolina—you must keep this a secret from every body as I shall have to buy some part—

Sale 3,677.000 Acres

In Georgia 517.000 at 22 Cts. ready, at 13 Cts bought
Territory⁶ 250.00 at 70 Cts. ready, your, balance bought @ 20 Cts
Virginia 198.869. @ 50.20.18 & 36 Cts in parcels, ready.
N Carolina 2.500.00 @ 25 Cts
Kentuckey 206.00 @ 50 Cts ready.

Pay^t. 1/3 in Cash bills on London and notes at 60 Days

2/3 @ 3 years on mortgage with interest payable half yearly.
—If this succeeds all trouble will be at an End and I have not any reason to doubt as a man has been spoken to to get good plots and descriptive lists of the Whole for him—with anxious hopes of Success

I am your Ob^t Serv^t

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Raleigh
N^o. Carolina

⁵Daniel Wheaton of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

⁶The Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

*Benjamin Coakley⁷ to John Gray Blount*PRINCETON⁸ 17th. Jan^y. 1795D^r Sir

Yours of the 8th. Instant I received and observed the Contents, I Should be sorry to hear of any Scheme carried into effect, to hurt the Interest of my friend Thomas Blount as he is not present, You may rest assured if he is a candidate for this District I will do every thing in my power for him, The Sooner I know he is a Candidate the better So that I may make it Publickly known.

The Inhabitants of Meherrin River have a petition gone on to the Assembly to get an Act past for the Opening and keeping Open the Navigation of Meherrin River from Boykins Bridge down to the Mouth, This will be of great Service to the people in general in this quarter And I will thank you to give it your assent and help it along,—There is a petition also for Establishing an Academy at Murfreesboro,⁹ If it does not Interfere with your Political Opinion and you think it Necessary to Establish one there you will please to give your assent. If other ways You will Please not to Opose it—

I am D^r. SirYour Humble Serv^t.Bⁿ. COAKLEY

Addressed: Free

John G Blount Esq^r.

Raleigh

Post

*George Ogg to John Gray Blount*RALEIGH The 20th. Jan^y 1795.

Dr. Sir

The multiplicity of publick business which engages your mind at present puts it entirely out of your Power to come to that Kind of Satisfactory decision with the parties Concern'd in

⁷See comments on Coakley in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 454n. 85.

⁸Princeton was located on the Meherrin River. This river rises in Virginia and meanders some distance before it enters North Carolina, where it flows southeastward to form a confluence and flow through the Chowan River to the Albemarle Sound. Fisheries are mentioned often in connection with the Meherrin. Coakley usually listed fish among the commodities which he shipped.

⁹Murfreesboro is located in Hertford County just south of Princeton. See "Map of North Carolina and South Carolina" by H. S. Tanner in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 64.

the last contract¹⁰ which is absolutely necessary As I am now come to a determination to go forward to Phill^a. I think you would do well to address the parties by way of letter & require from them a decided answer in the Premises, which will both be Satisfactory to them and all Concern'd, Such of the Parties as will accept Your terms or rather the terms Offered by Your friend M^r. Allison will Subscribe their [2] Their names, which I will procure for you by the Rising of the Session—

I am Respectfully

D^r. Sir

Your Most obedient Servt.

GEO⁻. OGG

Addressed: M^r. John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. January 22nd. 1795

M^r. John Gray Blount
Sir

I make no doubt my silence has surprised you and I do not Wonder,—it has surprised myself and the Cause procuring it has surprised even the ablest men here—I have had 60,000 Dollars of Notes signed by our first Merchants, two three and four endorsors of equal Characters on each, those notes have been deposited for discount at the several Banks from day to day since D^r. Williamson left this and cant get one of them done—I have also went so far to obtain private discount, on usury, as to offer two per C^t. or double Interest, and strange to tell Jews would not grasp at that—With my Sickness thro rain and Snow I made my Court to a Director M^r. Bell, his aid was promised me and exerted so far as to extract a confession from the Board that better Paper never was offered at Bank, but the House of J. B. Evens & C^o. were concerned in the East Indian Ship, and my want of money, was to aid the house, he could not do away the Idea altho he offered to be security that all the Notes should

¹⁰Ogg and others were making contracts to furnish North Carolina lands for the sales made by David Allison. See Allison's letter to John Gray Blount, January 9, 1795, page 473, above.

be sent to North Carolina that they might be Post Notes payable at 20 Days if they would discount them but all was in vain, he could not get one done for me—Thus Circumstanced I have delayed writing you hoping to get the necessary and have some prospects I shall shortly succeed perhaps to send with this—but Sir all this bad luck ought [2] not to affright as I have the Ways and means secure in my own hands, I mean the notes which will now be payable in 40 Days provided the bank does not discount them and be assured not one moment will be lost in sending forward to you as I receive it.—I had before written you to pay Major Gerard some money, if it is not already done, omit it until my next as I have paid his bill here and will send you his Account at that time.

I have not succeeded in my Sanguine Sale to Judge Wilson¹¹ altho we agreed fully as to the price a copy of which I sent you in my last but differed in the main point, he wishing a time to consider whether the Contract should be absolute or not, I that it should be absolute from the signing the Papers, thus we parted—I have yet hopes he will come forward as soon as the Bank begin discounting freely again, as he took my residence and urged a promise, if he should find his way clear, that he should be preferred as a buyer any time before I sold or set off for Europe.

Thus Situated it becomes necessary to suggest to you the Idea, that I go to Europe to complete a Sale [of lands]—if this is adopted no time must be loosed, as the present year in all probability is and will be the great Land Harvest and futurity only a Gleaning It is therefore contemplated that I sail in Feb^r or beginning of March at Farthest with as many of the Grants and papers [3] as can be in readiness, all others to be forwarded as early as possible.

The Ground plan being now suggested, all Things ought to be done with that View; It will then follow that the Grants must be registered good Certificates must be had, That the land is real, and not as often sold only in Contemplation—The best qualities of the land, how it is connected—the Swamps their extent, distance from a particular River, the navigation of that River, the quality of the Soil of the Swamp its growth and Timber, fall from the Source to the river and every favourable circumstance attending it

¹¹Judge James Wilson of Philadelphia, who was becoming deeply involved in land speculation.

The Pine land has good streams for mills great quantities of Timber of Superior quality is near bontable [bountiful] Water and the lands near the Streams, rich good land, every thing must be said that can be said in favour

A certificate from the Governor [of North Carolina] and Judge of the Federal Court as to the Character of the people certifying will be of service—a Word from the British Consul, Hamilton, if it can be had will have weight—I am also unknown in that Country, a Line in my praise will also be of use perhaps, altho it will not be used if any thing else will do.

Large Seals and a great many of them are of service on good Parchment, this will serve to let you know that your Conveyances to me must have good Seals [4] not North Carolina ones made with the pen and all your papers had better be acknowledged before the Federal Judge, of whose appointment and Authority I will obtain a Certificate from the Secretary of State here all this is by way of preparation for Europe and will cost but little provided I should sell to the Judge [Wilson]—

The purport of this letter ought to be communicated to the Governor early if you have an opportunity, and get his Certificate to me—preven his drawing more bills as there will be no body here to accept or pay them—Cant you have the Grant brought by Donelson to the Secretarys office for the 97,320 Acres in Hawkins, now in the name of Ja^s King, transferred to me as I have no power to convey, if this is not done, I will recant the bargain and leave it so, as I cant get a power before I go to Europe and the Interest is loosing duely on it, at the rate of 17 50/100 per day of which I advised the Governor and he has continued it by the way in which he has directed it to issue, contrary to my request and information that I had said the Grant would come in my name—can it be that he is afraid of me? You have also failed to send me the grant for the big Survey or to have your deed authenticated and sent back—remember the Interest is a great sum upwards of five thousand dollars per Annum, and all lossed [lost] for want of these papers—

[5] I send you a bill on the Collectors of Washington & New Bern for five hundred dollars each and one on M^r. John Hogg for five hundred twenty five pounds N^o [North Carolina] Currency—

Give my Compl^{ts}. to Col^o. Thomas & M^r. Willie Blount to M^r. Blackledge & other friends tell them I would have Written those named but I can hardly write for the Ague

I am your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

P. S. I think it probable I shall get 20,000 to day if I do I will send it by express as the post sets off too soon

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 22nd. Jan^y. 1795

Dear Sir,

According to custom I inclose to you a Letter & sundry papers therein mentioned for the members of the District—and Mr L. Haywood will deliver you two news Papers which come this time to your Share, but with these papers they would exceed the weight I am permitted to Frank¹²—I rec^d. your Letter of the 7th In^t. & was very much pleased with the general Contents of it—I hope your next will tell me who we have for Senator; that the weights of the House is right; that D. & S. have completely Succeeded; &, above all, that your Express has arrived which I know you must have rec^d. before now as I have rec^d a Letter from him (I mean H W) dated at Edenton the 5th In^t.—Allison writes you fully & I suppose in answer to your question about Georgia concerning which he says positively to me, No—However, I am myself inclined to hold a contrary opinion & am more than a little tormented with the inclination—I believe the Eastern members of Congress who, having sold out of the funds, want an object for Speculation will vote for opening an office for the Sale of the public Lands over the Ohio at the [2] price recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury— 20 Cents P Acre—but the Southern members, who know that it will immediately Command a Dollar P Acre, will not, I am sure, agree to offer it for Sale at less—so that I think it is not probable that the Land office will be opened this Session if funds to begin the proposed reduction of the public Debt can be found without, & I am confident they can, without new Taxes, or the perpetuation of those laid for 2 years by acts of the last Session—J. Haywood

¹²Thomas Blount as a member of the House of Representatives enjoyed franking privileges.

has alarmed me with an apprehension that Beaufort County is to be lopped off from our District & Willis Alston has given me Notice that he intends to be a Candidate. now if both these Things happen I shall be run hard indeed—much harder that my health can bear; for I have now a damnable sore head occasioned by a Swelling on one side of it which is extremely painful & my Ague & fever haunts me nightly—I have this day sick as I was, & I was so sick that I could not go out of the House, or have Kept out of bed if I could have remained tolerably easy in it, wrote a Letter to each County containing thanks for the honor I have had & a declaration that I am a Candidate for more—to Beaufort I addressed, in consequence of your absence, to Augustus [Harvey] [3] to Pitt—J. H. Simpson; to Edgcombe—Ed. Hall; to Halifax Doctor Hall; to Northampton, B. Coakley; to Martin W^m. Mc-Kenzie—was all that right?—

I have been two or three times spoken to by a quaker Merchant of this place whose name is Evans on the subject of a Shipment of Hats he consigned to you in the year 1786—he appears much dissatisfied with your offer of 100 Dollars but says he is confident that you are an honest man & would not offer to defraud him—pray can I settle the Business? if I can send me the papers that [relate, sic] to it & your instructions: for truly from the date & tenor of your Letter it appears that it ought to have been done long ago. he has a Letter from you purporting that all were sold but 4 at 96/ paper Money & that Letter bears date Octo. 88—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Free Tho. Blount
John Gray Blount, Esquire
Raleigh
N^o. Carolina

George Ogg to John Gray Blount

FAYETTE VILLE the 28th. Jan^y. 1795.

My D^r. Sir—

This will communicate to you the death of our worthy friend Col^o. James Porterfield, He departed this life on the 11th. day

of his Illness—The complaint was of the most violent inflammatory Kind which deprived him of his Reason from the time of the attack untill the last breath, except a few Short intervals of [his illness, *sic*]

The object of his Brother who will diliver this [to you] is to endeavour with your assistance, to negociate for their proportion of the lands in which we are mutually interested, He thinks that their dividend & the prospects which he has of Selling to Col^o. Donaldson his Brothers demand against the estate of Jn^o. Rice dec^d. [2] that He may be enabled to pay his Brothers debts with Suffering Suits which would be a desirable object indeed.—

1* ——— You will please to observe that the different Sums which I paid into the hands of the deceas'd may not have been applied to the discharge of the claim which the Surveyor of this County may have on you, the amount you'll find in my account Current with M^r. Richard Blackledge accompanied with his receipts for the Same which will Serve as a guide to you incase you Should Contract for their Shares,—

1*— I Shall once more & do most earnestly entreat you to believe that M^r. David Allison is playing a double Game & [3] If ocular demonstration is absolutely [necessary] I beg leave to Refere you to a letter to M^r. Daniel Wheaton merchant of this Place dated the 1st. day of this month, When you are informd that *he is dying*

1*— In that letter Sir you will See the Strongest picture which pen can draw of finese, duplicity & a want of ingenuity to Couch his language [in, *sic*] terms that would deceive a child

1*— As I have been So unfortunate as not to have Received an answer to my last letters written to you I shall in future beg leave to pled that as my excuse for being Silent—

I am Respectfully

Y^{rs} GEO. OGG

Addressed: M^r. John Gray Blount
Merchant In
Washington

* Ogg probably used this arrangement to emphasize his points.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

With Postscript

PHIL^a. 30th. Jan^y. 1795

Dear Sir,

Having seen a Letter from J. McDowell to J. McDowell Saying that the assembly would rise by the first of Feb^y. I shall direct this to you at Washington—I by the last mail wrote a Letter to each County to inform that I am a Candidate at the approaching Election & do not think it either necessary or proper to say more on the Subject; for if the people are not disposed to elect me upon information that I will chearfully serve them, I do not wish them to elect me at all—The Report of the Committee of last Session upon the Petition of Tho. Person & others¹³ was yesterday, after two days discussion, negatived in Committee of the whole by a very large majority (there being but 21 for it) —& to-day the Report of the Committee of the whole will doubtless be agreed to by the House & on that question I shall call the yeas & Nays. [2] The latest accounts from Europe say that the Nations at War with France have all sued to her for peace—that a treaty between Prussia & her is actually concluded that the preliminaries of a treaty between Spain & her & Sardinia & her are supposed to be nearly settled & that Germany may make peace by agreeing that the Rhine shall be the boundary—Holland must surrender at discretion—so that if War should continue, it will probably be a War between England & France only, which will be more agreeable to France than a general peace. No communication on the Subject of Jay's Mission¹⁴ has yet been made by the President to either Branch of Congress—The plan for reducing the public Debt—The plan for a more general promulgation of the Laws—& a new Law for organizing & disciplining the Militia of the United States are still [3] under way but neither of them is finished or near enough so to admit of a description—no news of either of the Brigs—remember me to all friends & particularly your family.—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

¹³This was a petition to the national government for the indemnity of the owners of "certain lands who had purchased them, under the sanction of the State, from the Indians." The resolution was brought up the following day when there was an extended and spirited debate on the question. Thomas Blount and Nathaniel Macon were among the supporters of the resolution which was lost in the final vote. The display of sectional feeling was very obvious. *Annals of Congress*, 3rd. Congress, 1793-1795 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1849), House of Representatives, 1147-1159.

¹⁴John Jay of New York who had been sent to England to undertake the settlement of commercial differences between that country and the United States.

[Postscript]

D. A. [David Allison] informs me he will to-morrow dispatch to you another Express with 30 or 40 Thousand more of the wanted article. To-morrow he tells me is appointed for signing the articles of agreement with the venerable J. W——n [James Wilson] on the terms he has mentioned to you—you may therefore make yourself easy for life & begin the long talked of new big House¹⁵—commit this to the flames instantly & expect the particulars it refers to by the Express—

Free, Tho. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

James Carraway to John Gray Blount

AVERASBOROUGH¹⁶ 4th February 1795

Sir

If you received letters from Philad^a. by last Sundays Mail, I will thank you to let me know how Your Brother & Mr Allison are, & to give me your ideas whether any thing more Suitable to me Can be done, than throwing mine & Gerrards lands into the last Contract with Allison, I Say more Suitable to me because I am apprehensive of Needing funds, before the Terms of that Contract Will Suply them. Would therefore prefer Six Cents P Acre prompt payment, or short Credit, And upon them terms will part with forty Thousand Acres in the Counties of Cumberland & New Hanover, well Surveyed and a good War-rantee—I Shall Expect [2] Your Acknowledgement of the Rec^t. of this by Next Mondays Mail or by one of the Members¹⁷ from this County.

And Remain with Esteem

Your Obt Servt

JAMES CARRAWAY

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
To the Care of Cap^t. Taylor
Raleigh

Mail

¹⁵John Gray Blount lived in a very modest house. It is quite possible that there were other buildings to make the household unit—otherwise, it is difficult to understand how such a large family with the numerous apprentices and additional visitors could have been comfortably housed in such small quarters.

¹⁶Averasborough was located on the Cape Fear in Cumberland County.

¹⁷Members of the General Assembly, which John Gray Blount was in Raleigh to attend.

William Blount to Nicholas Romaine¹⁸
Copy for J. G. Blount

KNOXVILLE February 5th. 1795

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 29th. of October was delivered to me at this Place on the 26th. ult. and inclosed herewith you have my Answer, to your Propositions affording Such prospects of Profit to yourself and your Friends who have contemplated a Speculation on the Lands in this Territory that I presume you and they will determine to Carry the Plan into Execution without delay and to the end that there may be no obstacle in my Power to prevent I have engaged Captain John Chisolm¹⁹ of this Town who is going as far as Philadelphia on business of his own to Proceed to New York and wait the Determination of yourself and Friends whether you will engage in the Speculation or not and bring me your Answer. In my Answer to your Propositions, I have Suggested the Necessity of a Purchasing Agent, Captain Chisolm is the person I would recommend to be Appointed, he is my next door Neighbour, has a perfect Knowledge of the Lands contemplated as the object of the Speculation, is acquainted with many of the Present Proprietors in the Atlantic States, possesses good bargaining Talents, and I will be answerable for his honesty in the application of the money committed to him according to the Instructions of the Company.

It now appears to me that Some of the [2] Banks in Philadelphia will be most proper Place to deposit the money Subject to the Bills of Purchasing Agent, but of that the Company and Agent can best determine.

An obstacle yet appears in the Way of the execution of the plan immediatly I mean the Signing of the Articles of Copartnership which I Know not better how to obviate than by assuring you that I will agree to any articles drawn consistent with my Answers to your Questions herewith inclosed and by me Signed of this date, and that as early as may be after I receive a Copy of the Articles of Copartnership I will authorise by Power of Attorney Some Person to Sign them on my Part at New York. In the mean time I flatter myself the Company may have Such confidence in my Assurances on that Head as to have the Pur-

¹⁸For a sketch of Romaine see Letters for 1793, page 228*n*. 4, above.

¹⁹Captain John Chisholm was a tavern keeper in Knoxville. See picture of Chisholm Tavern opposite page 168, above.

chases commenced by Captain Chisolm or Such other Person as they may Please to appoint as their Agent.

The affectionate remembrance of M^{rs}. Romaine is highly acceptable to me, be pleased to present me in the most respectful and acceptable manner to her and to believe me with the Sincerest Esteem,

Your most obedient Servant

[On back of the page in William Blount's writing]

W^m. Blount to Dr. Romaine

5th Feb. 1795

Copy for J. G. Blount

[Written on back in William Blount's handwriting] "Dr. Romaine's Propositions of the 29th October 1794 and the answers of W[illiam] Blount of the 5th February 1795. Copy for J. G. Blount."

Page 1

(Copy)

The second Proposition appearing first in order is first answered./

"The Situation and qualities of Lands that may be purchased either "from the Public or private Holders"?

In the Territory South of Ohio there is no office opened for the Sale of the Lands of the United States and if there was, there are no Lands within its Limits belonging to the United States to which the Indian Claim has been extinguished to be found in large bodies proper for cultivation. The prime Lands have generally been granted by North Carolina for military Services or for a valuable consideration paid into the Treasury before the act of Cession. But should Congress at this Session open an Office for the Sale of Lands in the Territory South of Ohio, a considerable quantity of Lands of different qualities fit for cultivation could be Secured, in Small Tracts or Bodies say of from 320 to 5,000 acres, but this could be done only at much expence and trouble, not only in Surveying them but in re-surveying the Lands already granted by North Carolina in order to find out the unappropriated Lands or in other words the Lands wished to be obtained

It would appear then to me that even if Congress do open an office for the Sale of their Lands in this Territory that they do not afford an object of Speculation of much extent, but Some of

them might be Secured to advantage if Congress do not hold them at too high a price by a Person well acquainted with the Country.

Disputed Titles in Land of all things are to be avoided and the danger of Such titles in obtaining these Lands would be very great almost certain [2] without the Expences and trouble of many resurveys of the Lands already Granted.

From "Private Holders" there are two descriptions of very rich Lands that can be purchased. One description is the Lands Granted by the State of North Carolina to which the Indian Claim is not extinguished laying on the Waters of Tennessee North west of the Cumberland mountain and the Waters of the Mississippie and as I see no probability of the Indian Claim being extinguished for years to Come these Lands do not appear to me as objects of Speculation.—

My reason for viewing them as not an object of Speculation is not because they are not very rich, for they are very rich and well chosen but because I fear it will be long before the Indian Claim will be extinguished and they are more distant from Settlers than the Second description of Lands in the hands of private Holders."—

The second or the other description of Lands in the hands of "private Holders" are Situated upon the Cumberland river and its Waters to which the Indian Claim has been extinguished by Treaties. This Description of Lands are generally very rich and level supposed equal to the best of the Kentukey Lands one is that they will produce Cotton to great perfection and Indigo and Rice and lay in a much more agreeable Climate and Experience proves it to be equally Healthy. This description of Lands have been granted by the State of North Carolina under an act, passed in 1782, to the Officers & Soldiers of the Continental Line of that State, in reward for their military Services; hence are generally called military Lands.

North Carolina granted to a Private 640, to a non Commissioned Officer 1000, to a Subaltern Officer 2560, to a Captain 3840, to a Major 4800, to a Lieutenant [3] Colonel 5,760, to a Lieutenant Colonel Command 7'200, to a Colonel 7,800, to a Brigadier General 12'000, Chaplain 7,200, Surgeon 4,800, Surgenon's mate 2,560 acres, that is to Such as Served during the War and less quantities to Such as Served three years and upwards. As to the Situation of these lands I have already Stated

that they Lay on Cumberland, River and its waters but to enable you to form a better Judgement how far they may be proper objects for Speculation it appears necessary that I tell you that the settlers commonly called Cumberland Settlers (Known by Government under the title of District of Mero) extend up and down the Cumberland River that is from east to West from 80 to 90 Miles very few of whom are on the South Side and those few in the Vicinity of Nashville and in width that is from North to South from 30 to 15° miles

The part of this Description of Lands which I contemplate as an object of Speculation do not lay within these Settlements but in advance of the frontiers and generally on the South of the Cumberland and it is that circumstance which makes them So.

The Lands of the Same quality within the Settlement are estimated and sold at from 2 to 3 1/3 dollars per acre and the Lands in Kentuckey of no better quality within the Settlement are at least averaged at 3 1/3 dollars per acre.

It is to be recollected that this Description of Lands is the pick and Choice of the rich Cumberland Country not obtained by the Grantees with a view to Sell to European Purchasers, but as a reward for their meritorious Services: And one Acre of it, is worth 10,000 acres of barren Mountains.

The first Proposition but Second in order. [4]

“Whether the Lands are sold at Such Prices as to make it an “object of Speculative Purchase & at what Price?”

The Lands of the first Description in the Hands of private Holders have been rarely bought or Sold and as I do not contemplate them at present as an object of Speculation I shall say nothing about the price of them. The lands of the said description have been Sold at from 10 Cents to a Dollars per acre, but Purchasers have been few at any Price owing to their having been but few persons in Cash to purchase on Speculation, and to the Lands laying too exposed to marauding Parties of Indians for the immediate Settlement of detached families.

The second Description of Lands in Private Holders hands I have already informed you was originally granted to the Officers and Soldiers of North Carolina very few of whom have come to this Territory but generally remain if alive in North Carolina, or have removed to South Carolina or Georgia: and they or

their Heirs are yet the Proprietors, and These proprietors are generally in necessitous Circumstances and Know but very little of the worth of the Lands and I believe are generally desirous to Sell, Some of whom will ask one Price and Some an other varying probably from 12½ Cents to a Dollar per acre according to their necessities, or their Intentions of removing or not to this Country or other circumstances. But taking all circumstances into view it is my opinion that 100,000 Dollars can be laid out in the purchase of these military Lands if immediately Sat about by a proper Person at Such prices as that the average will not exceed 33 1/3 Cents per acre including all expenses of Going to the Different Proprietors dispersed over North Carolina & to the South ward as far as [5] Page 5 the Frontiers of Georgia except the Salary of the Purchasing Agent of the Company. Such a Speculation would employ the whole time of a very active well informed man both as to the Lands to be Purchased and the residence of the Proprietors, and it is Such a character that I here contemplate under the title of *Purchasing Agent*.

Having Stated so many Particulars as to the quality, Situation and Price of the Lands of the Second Description in the hands of private Holders which are the Lands that I contemplate as objects of Speculation it is with you who best know the Prospects of Sales in Europe or to the Northward to determine whether they are really so or not.

Third Proposition

“What concern would you wish to hold and the Terms on which you “would engage in a concern of that Nature?”

I would hold a tenth provided the Capital is advanced me by the Company as Suggested in your Letter on Interest provided the principal is not demanded in less than three years, but if a Sale of the Land is made in less time for prompt Payment then to be repaid: by the Second part of the proposition I understand you to ask what part of the Business I would transact and at what Price? All I could undertake and that without Price (except the Advantage of my tenth of the Capital on loan at legal Interest as before expressed and my profits in the Sale) would be to advise and direct the Purchasing Agent of the Company for

the Benefit of the Company as far as I could, consistent with the duties I owe to my Appointment and other branches of my Private Concerns.²⁰

[6] Last Proposition

"Your Opinion on the probable rise of Lands purchased under "favourable Circumstances."

The value of Lands depends upon Population as well as the quality of the Soil, hence if the Persons Speculating upon the military Lands on the Waters of Cumberland could & would populate them, the price would equal if not surpass the price of the Kentucky Lands, and a large Body of People coming together to settle them would remove the danger of Small marauding Parties of Indians which now prevent the Settlement by detached families.

But admit no foreign Population is counted upon it is my opinion that the Lands which I have—recommended as objects of Speculation will rise in value at the Ratio at least equal to money at Interest at 6 P. Cent.

W^m. BLOUNT

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 6th Feb^y. 1795

Dear Sir,

The London Gazette of the 22^d November rec^d. by a late Ship from England announces that a treaty of amity Commerce & Navigation between the United States & Great Britain was signed by Mr Jay & Lord Grenville on the 19th day of November & the truth of the information is confirmed by a Letter of the 28th November yesterday rec^d. by Mr Jonathan Trumbull a member of Congress from his brother who is Secretary to our Envoy Extraordinary—But altho we know that the Treaty is actually concluded & signed,²¹ we know nothing of its' contents as it has not yet come to the Presidents hands—please give this Information to the people—the late Report that France had

²⁰Blount wished to avoid public criticism which might arise if it became known that he was speculating in land. He had encountered this difficulty before. See Alice B. Keith, "William Blount in North Carolina Politics, 1781-1789," in *Studies in Southern History*, edited by J. Carlyle Sitterson (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957), page 53.

²¹This was the familiar Jay Treaty.

made peace with Prussia & was busied in making peace with all the World, except England, is contradicted by Letters & papers from England as late as the 17th Dec^r. which further Say that all the combined powers are preparing to carry on another Campaign with redoubled vigor—I however think that a general Peace is not far distant as the French continue to be successful on every Side & her Enemies are all [2] so nearly exhausted, especially in their finances, that peace must be more desirable to them than even Successful War. Allison, did not write you at the time & in the manner I told you he would nor has he yet done it. but I suppose he will in the course of the present week—give my Compliments to my friend Keais²² & tell him I expect that Congress will raise his Commissions to 2 P Cent & add 150 Dollars P Annum to his Salary—a Bill containing a clause to that effect passed the H^o of Rep. yesterday I endeavored to obtain more for him but could not—I have at this moment an ague & was sick all last night—

Yours &c.

THO BLOUNT

Free Tho. Blount

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Gabriel Ragsdale²³ to John Gray Blount or Richard Blackledge

[11th of February 1795]

Sir

I have this day Been informed that thare has Been a Company of men in our County for the purpose of Takeing up Land and have gone Greate Lents in that Business. Which I fear will frustrate our Designs. in the present plan—I was informed that They ware in The first place in Burke County and done all They Could Thare but perhaps thare may Still be a door open for us to Accomplish our Ends in the 3 Counties of Burke Rutherford & Buncombe and I Shall make a push in the hole

²²Nathan Keais was the customs officer at the port of Bath.

²³Ragsdale was a land surveyor. His enthusiasm for the business led him to undertake extensive surveys. See Gabriel Ragsdale to William Blount, Buncombe, February 26, 1795, page 503, below.

of the Counties rather than fall Short the information Came from Good authority and I doubt the matter is Carried too far to be Compleatly aradicated [2] But perseverance and Small Expences Shall not be Lacking on my part I though proper to inform you of What I had heard thinking you might go too greate Lints in the Sertificate Business if nothing hansome is to be done you may Expet to hear Shortly from me or otherwise See me as soon as is possabe to Come So Greate a Distance— I Shall attact the Business if thar Should not Be more than 200'000 acres to be had thare Has been Sveral marchants from our Cuntry to Phuladilphia This fall who had not arived when I Left home, and I doubt that the information of Vacant Land Lying in our Cuntry has been Carryed forward by them, and Those men Came from That Quarter [3] if I Should get Better authenticated Information Before I arive hom I Shall Writ By The post from morginton [Morganton, North Carolina] or By Mr Baker The attorney General from morgen [Morgan] Superior Court and Should the prosspet altogether Blown I Shall Convey the Cash I Recvd by him to you in accomnied With the artikel of agreement

I am Genltmen With

Great Esteem your unfeigned

frend

G RAGSDALE

John Gray Blount)

)

or R Blackledg—)

11th of February 1795

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

or Richard Blackledg

Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 17th. Feb^y. 1795

Dear Sir

If your Salt arrived you had better Send some round here as fine Salt is Scarce[.] Should you send [the Salt], Please to send me one or two Hh^{ds}. Molasses & one or two Bags of Coffee, one Keg of 10^{dy}. Nails, you will Please to write me by

next Post the price of Tobacco & Corn, and if you mean Sending round here or not—

The Election in this County [Northampton] Stands thus Blount fifty six Votes, Benford one Hundred & Sixty nine, Alston one, Mr. Blount would have held a Very respectable pole in this County had it not been for this fellow Benford who plead Very hard with the People Saying he had Served the County faithfully for Seven Years, and he ever Considered himself to be the choise of the People of N^o.ampton and had done all in his power for them and Surely they would not Send any man in preference to him as he was a County Man one whom they had tryed and fully Relyed on his integrity and firmly believed in the Rectitude of his intentions.—

In this Case I changed the System of Electionnaring and instead of prevailing on the People to go to the Election I done all in my power to prevent the people from going that I could not fully rely on and every Man that I could rely on, went up and Voted for Thomas Blount there was a great deal of Altication on the Ground but every man appeared to be a free man and Stated as Such—

I am D^r Sir Your Humble Serv^t.

B COAKLEY

Addressed: Free

Mr. John G Blount

Merch^t.

Washington

Princeton)

17th Febr. 1795)

Benjamin Atkinson²⁴ to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH 17th Feb^y. 1795

Mr. John G Blount

D^r Sir I wrote you a few days past informing you I wanted a Vessel or two to load Naval Stores & Pork unto Norfolk which You will please to procure as soon as possible at the Return of my Flatt which is down I want to Send down three Hundred

²⁴Atkinson was a very active merchant. He lived at Bensborough on the Tar River and often sent flats loaded with goods down the river to Washington, North Carolina for the Blounts to ship to northern ports, West Indies, or Europe. Bensborough was probably named for him.

Barrels more if you have any Place that I can land them. please to advise me at the Return of this Post Your Progress in this matter for my Government [information for my action, sic] and your favours will be fully Acknowledged by

D^r Sir Your Most Obe^t. H^m. Ser^v

BEN ATKINSON

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

P Post)

David Allison to John Gray Blount

Feb^y. 18th. 1795

Mr John G Blount

Sir

I have nothing to relate worthy your Attention since my last, Only that I have been as industrious as possible to collect money and have failed in a very great degree, I can do nothing with the paper of the best Merchants here, at Bank, no discounts can yet be had—to help you in some degree I send 12,000 Post notes of the bank U States

I have the promise of 20^m. from Judge Wilson on Saturday & 20^m. from a Broker on loan, which will be forwarded you as soon as it is obtained—

You must not be uneasy I feel all your anxiety and have felt it too much for my health but even that is not spared to obtain the needfull—On yesterday the Contract was signed with Judge Wilson the Amo^t. [2] Dol^s. 1,203.451.²⁵ In the sale is included 500,00 Acres in the District of Morgan, not being able to send you a sufficiency of Cash with the requisition, I do not know how to write you only that it must be obtained that is entered and so remain until I can send The Cash I mention this as several people are preparing for that object and will shortly be there—due Attention ought to be paid to that place and obtain as much money as possible not taking too much of the mountain

²⁵Allison had been trying to clinch this deal for some time. See David Allison to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1795, page 476, above, and his letter to Blount, February 20, 1795, page 497, below, for more details of the contract.

You need not fear being left in the lurch only for the Moment, I have besides what I mentioned to be rec^d. of the Judge & C^o. Good notes to Am^t. of 80^m. Dollars which will be forwarded from time to time as I can exchange them—

I am with respect

Your Obedient Serv^t

DAVID ALLISON

[No address.]

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Feb^y 18th. 1795

D^r. John

Since mine by Casso I have been driveing on as fast as Possable and realy I am not now half done, Arrainging the Moore Business to my mind but am in a train & will do it before I Quit and fear my Opointment to Fayetteville will prev^t. my Coming to Washington before the 6th or 8th of March as their is a Disposition made to meet the People the first of March at Fayette. I must then Attend and in the Mean time work on here to best Advantage,—I wrote to M^r Allison to Secure the Certificates if Possable at a Saving Rate to pay for the Lands entered or to be entered in Buncombe by Last post directing him to Keep in View they only Sold as paper Money on Principle and Interest at 50/ P hundred when Doll^s Sold with an Adv^c of 20 P C^t. at 50/ P hundred Acres—Since which I have reced the Inclosed Letter, Copyed it & sent him for his further Government—Nothing P Last post for Either you or me from Phil^a. or Else where

Send the Inclosed to my Wife—M^r. Silvey has been at a Stand for two Days have my fears for him but he shall want Nothing that Can be done for him, he is now better than he has been,—Strouder left this on Monday well with the Necessary papers—I am &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

P the Tarborough)

Mail enrout)

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 19th. Feb^y. 1795

Dear Sir,

Your account of the Ballotting for a Senator, cont^d. in your Letter of the 28th Ult^o. does, indeed, prove that the Devil has been among the Members of the Gen^l. Assembly.—that Macon & Skinner,²⁶ & particularly the former, should have been beat so far by the Nags started against them, considering that Alfred was held back by his rider, astonishes me more than any thing I ever heard concerning Elections—My Mind has been continually on the Rack to find out the cause, & ten thousand conjectures & Calculations on the Subject have afforded it no relief—In Gods' name by whose address or what means, were the particular friends of those Gentlemen prevailed on to forsake them? But why do I now enquire, by the next post I Suppose I shall hear & strange as it may appear to you, if I have an opinion at all about the matter, it is that Macon has won the race; for what we wish, we are always most inclined to believe.—I expected when I wrote you last that by the present mail I should have the pleasure of informing you of the arrival of M^r Jays' Special Messenger to whom was committed the care of the Treaty of Amity Commerce & Navigation lately entered into between the U. S. & G. Britain; but am disappointed—neither the Messenger nor the Treaty has been seen or heard of at head quarters. Col. Humphreys our Minister Resident at Lisbon has arrived here, but for what purpose he comes, or whether voluntarily or by command, I am not able to inform you as nothing on the subject of his return has transpired—It is believed that he has been for [2] Some time past employed in Negotiating a Treaty with the Dey of Algiers; & that he has been fortunate enough to obtain his promise to release our Captive fellow Citizens at a Stipulated Ransome; but this is all conjecture & therefore I can only Say that if a Ransome is agreed on, the Government will pay it & without delay.—

Your Message to Doct H. [John Hall] I del^d. in a note wherein I reminded him of the unpaid Balance of the order you gave me on him & told him it was, & long had been, wanted; but have not since heard from, or Seen him. M^r M.²⁷ has said that the Man

²⁶Nathaniel Macon of Warrenton, North Carolina and a member of Congress, as indicated here, was a close friend of the Blounts.

²⁷Robert Morris of Pennsylvania.

he sent to view his purchase reported that fully one half of it was worth Ten Guineas PAcre & could be reclaimed for one Dollar P Acre & it is understood from what he has said generally on the Subject that if the State had not passed a Law prohibiting the importation of Slaves, he intended putting 300 Negroes on it—what he will now do I cannot learn—will it not, if you have power so to do consistently with your contract, be advisable to hold 20 or 30—of the remaining 100 in chosen Spots? I know it is not sold; but believe if it was in proper hands (Say D. A.'s [David Allison]) it could be at the price you mentioned. D. A. has not yet dispatched his Express unless he did it to-day as he last night told me he intended—for besides ill health & an inundation of paper from the Westward Sufficient to have crushed any other man, he has been exceedingly embarrassed, in common with all the Merchants of the City, by a refusal on the part of all the Banks to discount for 2 or 3 weeks past. you may however assure yourself that he will come, & soon, & full handed.—your apprehension as to his & my neglect of ourselves is but too well founded, for it is a Shameful Truth that neither of us has used a Single effort to get well for three 3 Weeks past—& he, during that time, has acted, notwithstanding my most friendly & incessant Solicitation, as if he was searching for means to kill himself—and I assure you I am Seriously alarmed at his Situation; for altho' he goes about daily he is every 3^d. night So Sick as to frighten all the family—as for myself, I am as you have often Seen me, very low, but not depressed & when Congress rises & I am freed from the fatigues of Duty I shall rise as heretofore—unless I should be defeated by a cursed Fistula that I find I have—and to guard against that I believe I shall at the end of the Session heave down & have it cut out—so that at present I do not calculate on leaving this before the beginning of April & unless I should otherwise inform you, you may continue to write to me here till that time—It is not now very painful or troublesome but by neglect will doubt [less] become So, & therefore I will not neglect it—I [send you, sic] the inclosed paper because it contains the prices Cash—No further news of either of the Brigs—the plan for the reduction of the Public Debt & a Law for organizing & disciplining the Militia are under discussion, but yet So backward that I

fear the Session must of necessity close before either of them (both being very complicated & intricate) can be finished—No other News—Comp^{ls}. to all friends—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Free, Tho. Blount
John Gray Blount, Esq^r.
Washington
N^o. Carolina

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. February 20th. 1795

Sir

After a long and fatiguing business I am now able to inclose you twelve thousand dollars which I send on by Post and hope it will arrive in such time (tho not to satisfy your feelings) as to prevent any real injury arising to your Credit and altho it has not been had to my liking or perhaps your Wish yet I can say it has been raised contrary to what any person ought to have expected, I was here without support[,] Bills drawing on me daily for large amounts and not even one paper has yet been forwarded me by which I could obtain Cash nor even support my Credit and every thing expected of me—I do not complain but intend it as a palliative to you for the want of Money—My difficulties have been what I never will again encounter neither for friend or money—And to add to my trouble, Complaints are made to Col^o. Blount in his letters when I am not written to, the effect of which is, he is soured at disappointments and I must bear all with the damned Ague—So much for Complaints to answer Complaints.

The lands in Buncombe must be entered and secured They are an Object to us and we must undergo the difficulties [2] several people are in pursuit of them and they are sold as you may guess from the following. towit

A Description of Lands in North Carolina

NewBern District

600,000 Acres in the Counties of Craven Jones Carteret and Beaufort among these lands about 200,000 are of rich

Swamp and Marsh lands, they lye on the Waters of Neuse Trent and Tar Rivers no part thereof being more than thirty miles from boatable Waters and a larger proportion not more than fifteen miles—such of those swamps where Cultivation has been attempted have produced from fifty to sixty Bushels of rice to the acre without being fully drained and where well drained they produce from 60 to 70 bushels of Corn to the Acre—The upland abounds in excellent Pine Timber and range for Stock.

Wilmington District

950,000 Acres in New Hannover Brunswick Onslow Bladen & Duplin Counties these lands are similar to those in New Bern District with a much larger proportion of excellent Swamp, they lye on White Oak, New, & Cape Fear Rivers and some part on the Waters of the Wacamaw

Fayette District

500,000 Acres in the Counties of Cumberland Robertson Moore Anson Sampson and Richmond—Those lands have also a small proportion of Swamp about 70^m Acres, but the greatest part is upland abounding in Pine Timber of a Superior quality fit for the West India [3] Trade with excellent Streams of Water for Grist or saw Mills and very convenient to the Wacomaw and Cape Fear Rivers

Salisbury District

350,000 Acres in the Counties of Montgomery Mecklenburg and Cabarrus these lands are uplands and the Counties known for their Fertility in producing Wheat Rye Oats Corn Flax Hemp and Tobacco—they adjoin the river Pedee altho they mostly trade to Fayetteville from which they are distant from 50 to 100 Miles—

Morgan District

500,000 Acres in the Counties of Burke Wilkes Rutherford and Buncombe these lands lie on the head Waters of the Yadkin, Cataba, Green, Tiger, Broad, Doe, Tow, Swannanoë, French Broad and Pidgeon Rivers—the soil is rich and fertile and produces in the greatest abundance all kinds of small grain Corn Flax hemp and Tobacco and abounds in the best range for Stock especially on the mountains to which it is contiguous.

Territory South of the Ohio

244,000. Acres in Davidson Sumner Knox and Jefferson Counties, those lands are of Superior quality—a part of them lying on Duck river are covered with Cane and Timber the growth of rich lands such as Walnut Locust Sugar Tree Buckeye Cherry Poplar Ash and Hickory—the production of such lands exceed any Idea you can have those on the Mississippi are described by General Robertson who attended the surveyors and is marked N°. 1.—[4]

State of Kentuckey

206,000 Acres in the Counties of Macon Bourbon and Madison on the Waters of the Ohio towit on Big and little Sandy Kentuckey and Licking rivers they are of equal quality with the lands lying in the Several Counties to which they belong and the quality of lands in Kentuckey need no description (See N°. 2

Georgia

517,000 Acres—I will not describe these—they are in partership—

Virginia

198,864 Acres—in this I have no part—

The proposals for Sale stand thus

2,900,000 Acres North Carolina	@ 25 cts is	725.000 Drs.
244,000 In the Territory	@ 70 cts is	170.800
206,000 In Kentuckey.....	@ 50 cts is	103.000
<hr/>		
281.000 In Georgia in which I) am Interested—)	@ 22	61.820
200.000 D°.	40	80.000
36.000 D°.	25	9.000
<hr/>		
51.905 In Virginia	50	25.952 50/100
21.813 D°.	20	4.362.60.
119.646 D°.	18	21.536.28
5.500. D°.	36	1.980.
<hr/>		
4,065.864 Acres	Doll ^s . 1.203.451 38/100 —	

This completes my proposals—they were offered for sale to no effect for a long time at last I fell in with the honorable James

Wilson with whom I have made a kind of Agreement on last evening which will be reduced to Writing, as soon as possible it Stands on our [5] proposals thus.

200,000 Dollars to be paid in two years (without Interest) from the delivery of the Titles

The balance to be paid in 10 years with Interest half yearly, except the $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Interest which is to be deferred after two years and paid with the Principal—And at the End of Ten years, the money to be rec^d. in three annual payments with Interest.—This is the principal part in which you Will feel yourself interested—It is a bad bargain, but the best I could do or make and will yield us about 40,000 D^{rs}. p^r. Annum in Interest

March 5th. This letter was written 4th. Feb^y. to forward by Express but having concluded to send by Post I retained it—I can now assure you the Contract is completed with Judge Wilson on the above Terms—Thomas has arrived by whom I rec^d. your letter and Grants as specified therein—I now send you a small relief All that I can, and shall continue to do so from Post to Post until you say enough to close the land business agreeable to the foregoing statement. the amount as follows 4150 Dollars in Bills on Collectors of North Carolina 2000 Dollars in notes and £346.165 Principal Certificates—my trouble not much lessen^d. nor health restored since my last—The Tuley is this night arrived all well—The Col^o. T. B. [Thomas Blount] very sick

Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Are Martins Certificates receivable in pay^t. of Lands

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH Feb^y. 23^d 1795

M^r John G. Blount

D^r Sir this afternoon I had the happiness to Receive Yours of the 21st Instant by M^r. Rhodes, which reached me in time to Write to Norfolk by this Post—I am glad you have at last

got a Vessel and must certainly Remember you in future I should have sent a letter by Woodard but did not Know when he past. Tar was in Demand at Norfolk a few days past but am dubious the price will be down before mine Reaches that place. but should not have taken a Dollar at Washington as my enguagement are in Norfolk. I shall send down 100 bb^s. Pork more the first of Next week and 200 bb^s Tar should any Vessel offer for freight to Norfolk please to take her up for me, I want much to Bargain with you for the Russel to go to London at her Return, and could I succeed wou.d [2] decline Sending any More Naval Stores to Norfolk this you will consider I shall be down next Week, but should you not be inclined so to do please to miss no opportunity in Securing the first Vessel that can be had for Norfolk my flatt lies here at the landing and can send her down at Two days Notice with three Hundred bb^s. & will pay the Expençe of an Express sent to me.—should it be in you Power to Succeed I herein Inclose you the Mess^{rs}. Reids Receipt for Two Hundred Dollars paid by M^r. Ashley which I hope will finish that dispute, should not the Vessel have Sailed before this Reaches you I should be glad to have the five Barrels of lard shiped in her if not already Shiped by Smith please to Remember to consign the Vessel unto M^r. James Donaldson agent to Wattson Stott & Co^o.²⁸

Believe me Dear with my best Wishes for Your Prosperity

Your Most ob^t

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: M^r John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

P post)

George Finch, Hatton, and Morgan to John Gray Blount

NORFOLK, Virginia 24 February 1795

Col. Hamilton has purchased a horse for a friend of his in the Bahamas, which he is desirous to send to him—Opportunities from hence to those Islands seldom occurring, and being inform-

²⁸A Virginia firm. Wagstaff, *John Steele Papers*, I, 335.

ed that from Washington they are frequent, I have, at the desire of Col. Hamilton, to request the favour that you will be so good as to inform him by post when any Vessel proposes to load for the Grand Caicos, or Turks Island, and to mention any Gentleman in Washington to whose care he might send the horse, and who would be so obliging as to have him shipped—

In return for the Liberty I am now taking I beg leave to make [2] make you a tender of my best Services, and to assure you that I am with great respect,

Dear Sir

Your most obedient Servant

G: FINCH:HATTON:MORGAN:

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

24th. February 1795

[Postscript]

Will Cap^t. Cameron please read this Letter & say if I shall take the liberty of saying you will carry the Horse when & on what terms

I want to write by [Grover] Wright

JG.BLOUNT

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

Postpaid)

John Strother²⁹ to John Gray Blount

LUMBERTON Feb^y. 24th. 1795.

Sir

I have been at this place five days, and am apprehensive that there is too much of a disposition prevailing here to procrastinate the business I come on Col^o. Willis tells me he will do every thing in his power to forward me, M^r. Rhodes likewise appears fair. tho both mooves slow, I will at all events set in, on the morrow to Surveying, and am flatter'd with a belief that I shall meet with no obstruction from the people—I have spent my time

²⁹For an identification of Strother, see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 197n. 47.

while here with Rhodes drawing and connecting such Survey's as he is best acquainted with; which will enable me to make out a very Satisfactory plan of all the Survey's in this county, Bladen, Cumberland, and Richmond, a general draught of which, with Rhode's Assistance I have drawn—which will be tolerable correct by the time I finish your business—I am apprehensive that I shall find it difficult to point out all the patented Land included in your large Survey's owing to the Multiplicity of small Enteries promiscuously made by the Inhabitants—but rest Assured that nothing in my power shall be wanting to effect the business with all the dispatch that the nature of the case can admit of.

I am with Respect
JOHN STROTHER

[No address]

Gabriel Ragsdale to William Blount
With a Postscript from William Blount to John Gray Blount

BUNCOMBE [COUNTY] 26th of Fe^{by} 1795

Sir

I Expect that you have Been inform that I was to make Some Large Entries in the County Buncombe for your Brother John G Blount I Have agreeable to his Directions Entered one Million & Twenty four Thousand acres—I was Likewise Directed to Call on your Excellency for Such Sums of money as must Be Expended in Surveying the Land[.] I Shall acording to his en-structtions Be at knoxville in the corse of 10 or 15 days. the, Entrytaker has requested Me to Endeavor to have a Quanty of Blank Warents printed and thare being know [no] printing office in the Uper part of This state I have thought it best to Endeavor to get them printed at Knoxville and Can it be done thare Be So Obligeing as to have about a Ream & half printed as thare has to be 1600 Warrents for your Brother—I have agreeable to the Request of Mark michel Esq^r Entered 50000 acres

more in the name of your Brother John Gray which I Expect will be on Vacant Land³⁰—

I am Si^r your Obed^t

G RAGSDALE

W Blount Esq^r.

[On back]

Mr. Mitchell will explain to you the Circumstance of the 50'000 Acres which he requested Ragsdale to enter in your Name—I have said to him you will do whatever you can to serve him without Injury to yourself—I shall say to Ragsdale let the Entries Stand until he receives your Orders to the Contrary—You may depend on M^r. Mitchell & Speak freely to him

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: His Excellency
William Blount

Honor^d .by)
M Michel)

John Strother to John Gray Blount

ROBISON CT^y March 1st. 95—

Sir

From Lumberton I informed you that I was apprehensive, there prevailed a dispotion [disposition] to procrastinate the business I cam[e] on,—the Next day after I wrote I set out for the 17920 Acre survey in this county, and began on thursday last to make a Survey of the Same, And if I find no more Vacant Land In proportion to the Survey than what I have already discovered, I am induced to think it will fall very short of the compliment called for, and if any confidance can be put in such Information as I have received from the people, I am affraid that I shall not be disappointed in my present sentiments—

I find it more Intricate to make a Survey in such a manner as will enable me to point [2] out the exact situation and quantity of all the patentd Land than I expected, measurably

³⁰These lands were probably surveyed at the instigation of William Blount himself, who was inclined to shroud his speculations in secret manipulations to protect his political position. The lands were probably designed for Allison's big contract with Morris and Wilson. See David Allison to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, February 20, 1795, page 497, above.

owing to the Obstinacy of some And Ignorants of Others—Maj^r. Regan has takin some pains to inflame the minds of the people, but I hope to be able to counteract his Intentions.—

The Large Survey in this country I am informed is as thickly inhabited as I find this—I wish that those large Surveys may not have a bad tendency hereafter or I am affraid they are calculated to involve the proprietor.³¹

I will make use of every exertion in my power to effect the purpose of my Mission—as soon as this Survey is done I'll inclose you a Rough draught.—

I am with Respect y^r. Mo. Ob^t

JOHN STROTHER

Fayetteville 3rd March

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Attention of)

Mr. Blackledge)

Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount

BUNCOMBE [COUNTY] March the 3rd 1795

Si^r

I have agreeable to your instructions obtained from the Entrytaker Eigh difrent Certificates, in those Quarters where they would Best Best Connect from the wourds [words] of the Locations, and have Conveyed them to the Tresuror.

and in the two Certificates N^o 1 & N^o 2 will Be the Lands Surveyed by Colo love, with that which he is hearafter to Survey, on the East side of french Broad, you will likewise find in Certificate N^o 3 thare is 62 Entryes which ly on the west side of french Broad including the Land which I inform you thare was warrents Issued by Thomas Davidson Late Entrytaker, for, to a Certain Hightower who was at Raleigh at the Last Session of Assembly. I think Should it not Be in your power to pay up for the Whole it will Be best to pay for those which is Contained in the three Certificats that are numbered as above then we Can Compleat the Grant for that part of the Land Surveye'd by Colo [Robert, sic] Love, and Likewise put it out of the power

³¹This indicates the growing resentment of settlers against the large land speculators.

of Hightower to Obtain the Eldest Grant on those fraudulent warrants which he has Obtained, Should it Be in his power to procure some person whom he may Suborn [subpoena] to go to the Secretary's office and make Affidavit, that that he made the Entries for him without fraud or Collusion, which I am Apprehensive he will Endeavor to do. I Expect to have the Whole of the Surveying Completed by the last of April, I Can then In a days warning [warning] Set out for Washington or any other place you may wish me to Come to, I Should be at a Loss Should you not pay for the Whole lands previous to the times running out what land or how much to reenter unless you Can write me or Send Express—There has some Attempts [2] Attempts Been made in this Country of reentering Land where it has not Been Very Specially located, or at least in one Instance where the land has been as Specially Located as ours have been—the Said Hightower who obtained those fraudulent warrants from Davidson has Entered a Considerable Quantity of the land Sold by Curson & Co. to Mr. Allison, I Believe more out of Revenge to Carson than the hopes of obtaining the Land, as he Supposes that he Can Suspend the Execution of his Grants and thereby disoblige him in his Contract with Allison[.] Our lands was all located by the Express directions of Mr Blackledge, tho not in the manner I Should again Enter was I Engaged in that Business again tho no attempts as yet have been made on ours and I do not know that there is any person that Contemplates attacking our Entries I am

With Respect your Obedt

GRAGSDALE

JGBlount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

Mr. R^d Harris

William Falkener³² to John Gray Blount

WARRENTON March 3^d. 1795.—

Sr.

I have the Pleasure of acquainting you that your Son Thom^s. is in good Health.—Finding he has been for some Time dissatisfied with the Place at which he boards, and (as he has repeatedly told me the Provision made was such that he could not eat) that he was uneasy because of his being there, I told him he might come and board with us.—He came Yesterday so to do, and from the Intimacy subsisting 'twixt my Boy and him you may be sure twill be agreeable. The Person with whom he had engaged to board seems displeased at the Removal, and really threatens him that *you shall pay* (whether he continues or not) to the End of the Year's Time agreed for. I have told Tom not to be uneasy on that Account and that I wou'd write to you. It has given him Concern at his being so threatened, but I Have removed [2] his Uneasiness.—This I have done Sir, not from any Prospect of Gain; as it has never been our Intention of taking Boarders, but from a Principle I hope always to possess "that of my being useful to my Fellows; but particularly to be serviceable to Youth with whom my Son may be intimate, and prevent any Inconvenience arising to them that comes within my Knowledge."

The term of his Expiration for Board with Sherrard Green is some Time in June—I thought it hard he should be suffering if his Complaints were just—I did, as I should be gratefully thankful was my Son similarly Situate to any One who would do the Like to him—If I have erred, say so frankly when you write, and give me any Directions you may think proper for his Disposition and they shall be obey'd.—He has occasionally made Application to me for a few Matters, and I have cheerfully supplied him—This I shall continue to do, and hope to be favour'd with your Reply by first Post. My old Friend (tho' now become an *inattentive* One) John Simpson, I understand lives in Washington—He owes me a small Balance on which I have written him; but he has never vouchsafed an Answer, would it be agreeable to you to ask him if he would pay it on Order? If it will, I'll thank you so to say in your Answer—Though I wish to promise (by making this Requisition) I don't by any Means whatever wish

³²For a sketch of William Falkener see Letters for 1790, page 8*n*. 24, above.

to put you in a disagreeable Situation, as I have Reason to suppose you and he have not always been quite well together. Excuse the Freedom of the Request and the Hastiness with which I write.

I am Sir With great Respect

Your mo. obed^t. and very hble Serv^t.

W^m. FALKENER.

P. S. Do me the Favour to present my Respects to M^r Keais, saying his Son is in good Health,
[Margin note]

P. S. Please to address your Answer to Doct^r. Tho^s. Gloster Post-Master in Warrenton—he being my Partner' twill save Expense.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 5th March 1795.

Dear Sir,

I have news to communicate that will comfort you—The Tuley is Safe at Gloster point 2 Miles below the City & Capⁿ. Smith at my elbow in perfect health—She is full loaded by Ketlands under the contract I made with them last summer but whether She brought Goods for us to amount of the balance of the freight after deducting the premium of Insurance made on her out I do not Know nor cannot know until I see M^r Ketland which I cannot do until the morning & perhaps after the post goes off, but I suppose they are as I observe in the manifest 2 Casks marked B. addressed to Ketlands & the rest of the Goods are all addressed to others.—Smith popped into my room *Sans ceremonie* at the very instant that I was taking up my pen to write to you half after 7 o'Clock this Evening which you know was after dark—Inclosed are all the Papers rec^d. from Lake³³ except a Copy of his Letter P the Russel which I enclose to Ben. Blackledge—I stript them of their cover to reduce them to a weight that I can frank—the Russel Sailed from Liverpool on the 24th Nov^r. well manned & found & Cap^t Smith does not doubt but she got safe out of the channel—I therefore indulge the pleasing hope that ere this you have had the pleasure of Seeing her at your own Wharf. Cap^t. Smith wishes to be informed as

³³William Charles Lake of Liverpool, England.

soon as possible [2] of your intention in regard to the next Voyage of the Tuley—he Says positively that he cannot go in her to Europe from this place without visiting Carolina—If you have mentioned anything to me on this subject in any of your Letters I have been so cursed Sick that I have forgot it—for 15 days previous to the 3^d Ins^t. (the day Congress adjourned) I thought myself well but on that day about 1 o’Clock I was seized with a violent ague which was Succeeded by as violent a fever & I have but just recovered from the delirium it occasioned & my nerves are now So Strongly affected that one, or both, of my hands once in every 5 or 10 minutes fluttery like a fish just drawn out of the water—however I flatter myself the worst is over & that with the care I shall use I shall soon get well again[.] You may assure yourself that as Business is now over I shall take proper Care & believe Me I am convinced it is indispensibly necessary for 2 more Such Nights as the two last would probably Send me to Potter’s field where I am afraid our friend David [Allison] will go in Spite of all my good advice; for tho he now goes about & does business, he is very low & will take nothing. I wish you would admonish him on that subject in a particular manner— I shall wait [3] here, or [at, sic] my friend Jn^o. Jons’s, where I shall go as soon as I get able, till the latter end of the Month—I rec^d. all your Letters from Raleigh & if I did not acknowledge them Sickness, which frequently made me delirious, must be admitted as an my excuse—I thought I had done so—I have paid you two Bills in fav^r. A. Hodge for 600 Dollars each & your Mem^{os}. for Articles shall all be complied with—Allison writes you & incloses what will contribute to your relief—your Letters of 17 & 18th are both to hand & I thank you for your acco^t. of the Election as it is [the, sic] only one I rec^d. that afforded Satisfact[ion] as to the probable Even. [event] to Beaufort County I feel a Sense of gratitude & attachment too great to be expressed—pray present my thanks where they are due & believe me I am glad Gorham stood a poll—If I had not been elected the [votes, sic]* of that County & Edgecombe, where I am best known would have afforded me as much Satisfaction, as [on my, sic]* own Acco^t. I derive from my re-election—to have the confidence of all that know me is all I can expect—Cap^t. Smith is more extravagant in praise of the Tuley than yourself—he says she is without exception the finest

* The manuscript is marred.

Vessel he ever had his foot on; & as She is here under that character from 2 good Judges I will take care that she shall have Such a head as will please you. Remember me to your family & our friends

adieu—

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

I must necessarily go this Summer & early to Knoxville & the Sweet Springs—I propose starting ab^t. 20th [instant] if possible—

Addressed: Free Tho. Blount
John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL March 6th. 1795

J:G: & Tho: Blount Esq^{rs}.

Gent^t.

I have been in expectation of the favor of a line from you but presume the want of a direct intercourse has prevented it

The present state of this country, in regard to other Continental Powers being highly interesting to America I cannot refrain from occasionally informing my friends of the State of this Market. Holland being now in the hands of the French and the great Naval preparations making to resist their increas'd force by this conquest, must be a means of considerably enhancing the Price of all Naval Stores, & Lumber of all Kinds must keep high from [2] the increas'd difficulty of getting it from the Northern Powers in the Baltic. Provisions of every kind are high through the Continental War, which is highly advantageous to your States in the introduction of your abundant Harvests. It will at all times afford me pleasure to be serviceable to you here, being with Esteem & respect

Gentm

Your most obed^t. Serv^t.

W^m. CHA: LAKE

An Embargo is at present laid on all our Shipping to aid Government in procuring the Seamen immediately wanted—

Prices Current. March 6, 1795

Pipe Staves.	£ 20a22P m.	Indian Corn	30/ to 32/ in
Hh ^d . d ^o .	17 £ 18.10—	demand	
Barrell d ^o .	8 £ 10	Wheat	9/6 to 10/6 Bush ^l .
Tar	19/ to 21/	wanted	
Pitch	9 to 11/	Flour 1 st .	21/ to 22/
Turpentine	10/6 to 12/	2 nd .	19/6 to 20/
Beeswax	£ 11 to £ 12—P C ^{wt} .	wanted	
Honey	4 to 5 ^d . P 1b	Tobacco	P ^t . 2 ^d . to 5 ^d .

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE March 7th. 1795

Dear Sir/

I can hear nothing of Either of the Brigs.³⁴ and no nuse from the west Indies[. I] Suppose Cap^t. Lewis is the latest from their who you have Seen—the Beaver³⁵ has Just Discharged her freight from Perquimons for Stewart and Barrs Brig Jenny, I Exspect in a day or twee a Vessel or two to lighter from the N. Counties, and then Send her up to washington or come in her my Self to lighter the Schooner that W^m. Rhods is loading of Dur-rants or Barney, as the tides are Very Low I think She will make more by Lightering in the Cuntery then freighting at 2rd of Dallar to Norfolk—our wharf is a full of Lumber and Loads coming Every Day a Great many people want to Store with us more then I can take, a M^r. Henry a Merchant from amboy wants to Store within a hunddred [2] of Staves, you will it is likly See him as he must come or Send to Washington he [has] now gone to Pasquotank where he has a Store, he is much pleased with our Catle [Castle] Business, and Says he would like to lay out Twenty thousand Dollars hear, I have Requested him to Call on you if he comes to your place, he is a partenner of a M^r. Butler of Philadelphia

³⁴The *Russell* and the *Tuley* were expected from Europe.

³⁵The *Beaver* was a small vessel owned by Wallace and the Blounts. It was here being used to lighten vessels attempting to cross the bar at Ocracoke.

I have been up to hatterass but have not made any Purchase of Land but have had a full Survey of the Cape. and as I think my Judgment is as good as any other mans for the place for the light hous I have a man to try to Buy or bargain for it. at Same time tell the people that I am Shore the Light house will never be built as it may come more Cheap; I can not Collect any of the Duties for the Ship Enterprise as the people Say that that honest man Gion is to pay as he Said he would and Stopt 5 Cents a pound and Give them 4 pence a pound

I have no letter from Daves to Get any mony for Fort. So much for fort [3] I have not Engaged with Spurrow to build for for us; he was Engag^d. with Some boddy in New Bern before I got home, I have Sold the Canvas; and think of nothing but Building of Land Enough to hold Cargoes to land a thousand Ships at least at one time. I think it will be well if you can Engage ten or more good hands to work at the Castle; and let us begin Soon the Next month. as hands will be hard to Get this place. land and wharfs is all we want at this time—I am tiered of paying a way money to Build forts; you have Ceded part of the Rock for light house do less [let us] make them pay to help us out I hope your Brother [Thomas] is Elected that we may have one friend in Congress

our little Girl is Very Sick and I think will die Patsey—the Rest of our family is well.—I am in hopes of Seeng you in 5 or 6 days with the Brig Rus^l or Some other Good nuse to tell [4] please to write all the Nuse by Pinkham if you have time, I have write to W^m. Rhods about the lighteage and Pilotage of the Schooner of Durrants—also to Barney—Wee must make a little to bear our Exspences in building.

Comp^{ls}. to all frieds

yours

JOHN WALLACE

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

William R. Davie³⁶ to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX March 9^h. 95.

Dear Sir

You were so good as to mention to me at Raleigh that you would endeavour to find a market for such land as Gen^l. Jones

³⁶See sketch of William R. Davie in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 29n. 47.

and myself were disposed to sell—we are desirous of availing ourselves of your kindness and have concluded to sell seventeen thousand five hundred acres of our swamp lands below, provided we can get one dollar per acre—I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you at Newbern Court [2] where any arrangement can be made that you may deem necessary to effect a sale. I am with great respect

your mo^t ob^t

W^m DAVIE

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

By H. W^m.son [Hugh Williamson] Esq^r.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 12th March 1795

Dear Sir,

I rec^d. your uncommonly long Letter of the 25th Ult^o. & have perused it with pleasure at least twenty times—yet it did not afford me all the pleasure I sought for—I was disappointed, Sadly disappointed, that it did not announce the arrival of the Russel & contain instructions what to do with the Tuley—as the one had been then 3 Months & one day out from Liverpool & the other you ought to have known by a Letter from Cap^t. Smith via Norfolk, was here. My hope now is that I shall receive your orders for the Tuley on Saturday or Tuesday next as I calculate that by the 3^d or 4th Ins^t. you did certainly hear either by Smiths' Letter above mentioned or by a Brig he spoke bound into Caro⁻. from Curacoa of her being on her way to this place; but should I be again disappointed, you may prepare to receive the Tuley in as short a time as She can arrive after Wednesday next for I shall in that case order her to Sail for Occacock on that day if She should be ready & I hope She will—however, it is by no means certain for I have determined that She shall have a head before She goes out of port & she is not yet half unloaded—and now, Sir, I have a secret to tell that will vex you Sorely—instead of receiving by her Goods to amount of the difference between £425 & the premium of Insurance on her outward passage we have rec^d. only 20 Doz. broad Hoes amounting to

£21.7.0 & this, altho I have been asking for our Invoices [2] every day, & sometimes 2 or 3 times a day, Since her arrival, I was not in formed of 'till about 1 o'Clock yesterday—when to my astonishment Mr John Ketland (Tho^s. is in England) told me he had order'd them to be shipped from London where they could be laid in cheapest & that they would come in their Ship Adriana which he hourly expected—what to do in this case I do not Know—I had at first a disposition, being Sick & somewhat peevish, no doubt, to quarrel with Mr John—but he was so polite & civil that I could get no chance to do So—& upon reflection, as his Goods were all landed except Some Salt, I thought it best to let it alone & endeavor to obtain Justice in an amicable way; & so I have determind—but I confess to you I am fearful he is a Tricky chap; for besides withholding the Invoice of the Hoes & the information that they were the only articles shipped for us, he has in a good humored polite way avoided telling me the amount of the prem. of Insurance—which I do not even yet know—Tomorrow I shall endeavor to obtain from him our acco^t. Cur^t. & if in that he refuses to give us Credit for £425 payable in Goods at cost & charges (I mean such as we ordered) I shall know what he is & how to treat him—& if a Suit must settle the matter, it shall be immediately instituted.—But if he renders the acco^{ts}. fairly & promises to deliver the Goods, he Says he has order'd from London, when they arrive freight free, I shall not let him Know my Suspicion of him, but give Allison an order on him for the Goods & quit him, convinced that it is the best that can be made of a bad bargain—If I had Known, or even supposed that our Goods were not on board before the hatches were opened, bulk never Should have been broke until the matter in dispute was Settled— but the want of that Knowledge & my confidence in him have led me into an error which now it is perhaps impossible to retrieve. [3] The articles ment^d. in your Memorandums shall come by the Tuley. Easton's Ticket Shall be purchased & he Shall know the N^o. of it before the drawing of the Lottery commences which I fear is at a distant period—Doctor Hall told me today that he would tomorrow give me Morris & Nicolson^s³⁷ Notes for your part of the [land] Sale he made to them & as the Credit of those men has got to be very low & they are at long dates, I think it will be best to pass them off without indorsement or recourse

³⁷Robert Morris and George Nicolson.

for some sort of real property & what if I should buy a House with them? I say a House, because they may be negotiated for that sort of property in the way I ment^d. to most advantage—I shall consider when I get there what is best to be done & do accordingly; for really they [the notes] are not a property that I should think worth holding altho' they are now an article of considerable traffick—If Allison had not contracts to get off what he is to get, I should think he had given away all our Land that he has sold to them—but Wheaton will comply & to him he puts off a great many.—the remaining 100 m Doctor Hall seems disposed to keep, & he tells me he shall make you an offer to improve in Copartnership—the Deed sent by Col. Thomas I hold & shall hold unless it can be sold at a great price & for ready Cash—I can't learn that D. A can do any thing with it yet a while if at all—he has done enough—Col. King has just arrived here & bro^t. the Title to the large survey in his name. he left W. Blount & family well on the 22^d. Ult^o. D. A. has missed his ague & is mending fast; & as he has got nearly through his difficulties, I begin to think he will recover—but as for myself I have been for ten days very Sick, so sick that I think the chances at least 3 to 2 against me. I must make haste to get to the Sweet Springs for it is there, if I am curable, that I am to find my cure—but bad as my Situation is, I am reconciled to it, & my Spirits, tho' they Sometimes flag a little, I trust will not sink—sometimes for a week or a fortnight I feel So Stout that I consider myself quite recovered—then all at once I am pulled back [4] by I don't know what, my strength is prostrated & I feel as if I could not live a week—yet I have now no particular complaint & Doct^r. Wistar, my Physician, says I shall not die unless I commit suicide which I am sure I will not do—The President rec^d. the Treaty on Saturday last P Cap^t. Blaney, via Norfolk, but Nothing on the subject of it has transpired the Senate will meet to decide the fate of it on the 8th June—I have not yet determined whether I will come home in the Tuley or by land but in either case expect to get there between the first & 10th April—I shall return thanks to the people of Beaufort County in the manner you advise but Suppose a delay

of a week or two will make no odds—I am now tired—Remember me to your family & present my sincere Congratulations to the old Lady—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

[No address]

David Allison to John Gray Blount

March 12th. 1795

Mr. John G Blount

Sir

In my last letter by last Post I sent you four thousand dollars in bills on the Collectors and 346 £ odd of North Carolina Certificates which I hope will come safe to hand, by a former Post I sent you 12000 Doll^s. which ought to have been with you long since but of this I have no notice from you

I thought to have been able to have sent you a few thousand by this post but have been disappointed but on this you may rely that as fast as I can coin it I will send to you until you say enough—

Col^o. King is arrived and with him the big grant for which I will at least get paper if I Cant money—

Wheaton has sent me a deed for his part of Holleshelter and promises fair to comply with his Contract which will be a great thing to us—When I have or can send your money I will write more freely. I am as usual

Your Ob^t. Serv^t.

DAVID ALLISON

John Gray Blount esquire

now at Newbern

N^o. Carolina

Halifax Mail)

*Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount*PRINCETON 17th. March 1795

Dear Sir

Capt. Cricklow comes on with the bearer Mr. Williams, in Order to purchase Salt, he has with him Six Hundred Dollars to lay out for that Article, but he wants more Salt than he has Money to pay for, and would wish to Make a Contract to pay fish for the whole of the Salt if Convenient to the Parties, if not to pay his Cash & the balance in fish—As he will have to Charter a Vessel to come round here with his Salt, You will oblige me Very much if you will Purchase for me Three Hundred Bushels Coarse Salt, Turks Island⁸⁸ or Coarser one Hh^d. good Molasses if it does not exceed Six Shillings Paper Money P Gallon, twenty thousand eight penny Nails, Sixteen thousand Ten penny Nails, four or five peices $3/4$ or $7/8$ Linen from one Shilling to Eighteen pence Sterling, two Bolts Oznaburgs, one Box pipes, two Dozen Weeding Hoes, two Rheams paper one of Midling fine [a]nd one of Coarse, three Packs of Common Pins, three [or] four Dozen Pocket HandKerchiefs, one Keg Pow[d]ler with Shot in proportion, You will please [o]bserve the reason I have wrote for you to get these Articles is in Case a Vessels coming Round here [2] with Salt, I can send you round Corn & Tobacco to pay for them, I dont wish you to Purchase the Articles or dry Goods that I have wrote for unless you can get them on a reasonably advance so that I may make a profit on them, this I Shall leave to yourSelf to make the best bargain you can for me, if the Vessel do come round I shall send you corn & Tobacco to sell for me—

I am D^r. Sir Your Hb^l. Serv^t.

B. COAKLEY

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.Merch^t.

Washington

P Favour)

M^r. Williams)

⁸⁸See references to Turk's Island salt in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 233n. 75. This salt was of very large crystals and is frequently referred to in these papers as alum salt. It was usually used as a preservative. Table salt was often imported from Liverpool.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 27th March 1795

Dear Sir,

When I wrote you last I had No doubt but the Tuley would Sail for Washington on or before the 25th Ins^t. but bad weather, a rascally Carpenter & a more rascally Merchant have conspired to deprive me of the power of dispatching her so soon—I however think She will Sail on Sunday next—if She does not it will be the fault of the Carpenter only for She has now her ballast on board & waits for nothing but the finishing of her head which was by contract to have been finished on Saturday last & the Carpenter now Says Shall be finished on Saturday next.

The award of Mr FitzSimmons & Mr. Blight was, that the Captain & *real* owners of the Vessel were accountable for the damage awarded by the Surveyors on account of bad stowage, & in consequence thereof I have been obliged to pay in Cash to the owners of four damaged Bales to amount to about 375 Dollars which I am told we may with propriety stop out of the Wages of the Captain & Crew—but of that I am not so fully informed as I intend to be I shall get from the Referees a Certificate on [2] the Subject Shewing how far they & each of them are liable—Ketland to-day, & not till to-day, render'd me an account Cur^t. exhibiting a Balance in our favor of £276.15.2 Sterl^s. but appeared to me so palpably erroneous, or rather, unfair, that I could not admit it to be just, and in order to obtain an equitable Settlement in an amicable way, I proposed another reference to Mess^{rs}. FitzSimmons & Blight & he acceded to my proposition; so that to-morrow I expect to have all matters of controversy finally decided—I shall contend that as the Goods we order'd were not bought agreeable to contract, we have a right to demand of him as much Money as they would Sell for at this place & I think no two Men in the world would Say we ought to take less—I have been offer'd a freight to a Port on the Bay of Biscay to load here with Corn @ 1/10 Sterling P Bush^l. or at occacock with Naval Stores @ 10/ or Corn @ 1/10—& another offer was made to-day to load her in Virg^a. wh. Tob^o. for White Haven—But as Smith persists in his refusal to go another Voyage without visiting Carolina, & neither of the offers appeared to me to be better, circumstances & the condition of the Vessel considered, than you have told me may be had at Occacock, I

thought it best to reserve to ourselves the option, especially as from the last accounts rec^d. of the Russel it is doubtful whether She may not be lost, to load her for our own account—She could not load with Grain before She was caulked thoroughly from light water, mark & such repairs as would make her fit[.] to receive a [3] Cargo of Tob^o. would cost in Virg^a. (Mens Wages &c. included) at least 200 Dollars—I observe the Russel was spoke on the 7th March, by a Vessel that has arrived at Hampton Roads, in Lat. 25.55. Long. 73.30 in Want of provision & water—& to that account, it being the last I have heard of her, I allude when I say it is doubtful whether she is not lost—You ask whether Pork is really worth £5.7.6 & Tar 25/. to which I answer that I find these to be the retail prices which I did not before know as the Printer of the prices Cur^t. had assured me otherwise. what the real wholesale prices are I cannot ascertain for no merch^t. of my acquaintance is able to inform me. Alllison desires me to tell you he has [about, sic] £1800 Certificates which he will send you by ———* do nothing for Col. Read—he is getting ———* Stuart & Barr strongly recommend their Liverpool correspondent to us & will give us a Letter to him—they say he can do for us whatever we may wish—his name is John Brown—I began my Letter last night when the weather was good but this morning I found the ground cover'd with Snow & it is now Sleeting & blowing violently so that the Carpenters cannot work on the head. The perplexity I have had with the Tuley has done more good to my health than could have been done by all the Doctors in the City in the Same time—I am gaining ground fast & shall start from here about 1st. april by land—prepare to receive the Brig—

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Halifax)
Mail)

* The manuscript is badly worn.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE March 28th 1795

I embrace the opportunity by Billy Lyttle Jun^r. who has come to me Express from Colonel Donelson³⁹ to write to you— Since Writing to you by Holmes I have recved Letters from D. Alleson which have removed all my doubts as to Danger of adventuring in the Buncombe Lands.—Ragsdale is now here his Business to obtain printed Warrants of Survey and Mony to pay the Surveyors & Chain Carriers—I have made Provision for paying him before he leaves the Territory five hundred Dollars and shall give him Bills for 1000 dollars more in small Bills to be sold at the Moravian Town [Salem, North Carolina] if indispensably Necessary & not otherwise

You will say why advance such a Sum when Ragsdale was instructed to make a Bargain for the Surveying with the Surveyor for less Sum and when in Fact he has made such a Bargain—The Answer is the Surveyor will not stand to his Bargain and it will be trifling with ourselves to quarrel with him[.] better pay the full Fees & so I instruct Ragsdale he can not make another Bargain for a Less Sum than the whole Fees that the Surveyor [2] will *amicably* execute,— And it is Ragsdale's Opinion such a Contract can be made with the Aid of five hundred dollars for which Purpose they are advanced & the Bills committed to his Care & Discretion drawn pay-able to himself on Order—I think Ragsdale fully competent to the Business he has undertaken to execute for you.—The Business in which Donelson sent Lyttle to me is an Advance of Cash to relieve him from the Judgment of Lt. [sic] Laurence or rather his Securities who I believe are not willing he should leave Carolina until it is settled—His Request really embarrasses me very much for I have no Way to raise it but by Bills on D. A. who has too many unavoidably drawn on him however I find Myself compelled so to draw—It would be very plasing [pleasing] thing to me if the Bills could be held a few Months in Carolina in the Hands of some Person who could & would advance the Mony upon the Faith & Credit of them—But as you will not

³⁹John Donelson whose daughter married Andrew Jackson.

be at Hillsboro— you can do Nothing in it.—Col. Heart⁴⁰ writes me he is highly pleased with Kentuckey invites me & all his Friends to come on to so delightful a Country where he makes [3] Mony so fast that his only Want is of his Friends to help him enjoy it that is I suppose so far as the Rights of Hospitality extend. He also speaks of Salter's Claim on Henderson & C^o. but says Nothing Conclusive—I shall urge him in my Answer to execute the Title to Salter's Heirs as early as possible which I am confident he cannot do without a previous Devision between the Original Partners and its doubtful with me whether such a Division will ever take place—

Would it not be well for you to forward to me a Copy of the Instrument of Writing that Hart gave Salter a Bond I suppose to make a Title & inform me to whom that is to what Names Hart ought to execute the Deed & purhaps I may obtain a Deed that may be preferable to the Bond—As to the Lands in this Territory I have heard a Decree has taken place for the Division six Months past but have not heard of Persons being appointed to make such Division—The Company⁴¹ appear to me to be all above their Business, what is every Body's is no Body's Business,—Certainly the Business of that Company requires the [4] Attention & Abilities of an Active well informed Man to complete it who ought to have a least 500 dollars per-annum for his Services and in my Opinion Sam. Mitchell a Lawyer of this Country and well acquainted in N^oCarolina & Kentuckey would be proper for such an appointment.—

Hart's Nail Factory with 25 Hands mostly Boys new in the Business nett him upon an average 20 dollars per day—The Transportation of his Rod to Lexington cost him 100 dollars per Ton—We could easily raise that Number of Hands & ma[n]y of them of a better Description—

I *probably* not *certainly* with Col. King shall own a Blumary [bloomery] equal to any in the World as to Ore & Water in a few Weeks about 100 Miles above this near Blount-Ville where 1000 ct of the best quality of Iron can be made by the Works in their present State per day—

A Slitting Mill can be erected in a few Months & there are other Blumarys near so that Iron could be had plenty—what

⁴⁰This was probably Thomas Hart. He had planned to go to Transylvania early in 1780. See letters from Hart to members of the Blount family in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I.

⁴¹The Transylvania Company. Members were hoping to secure a division of the lands claimed by the company.

think you of a nailary at that Place under the Management of a good Man Col. King if he will accept but if him his Salary would be from 500 to 800 dollars per annum but he is worth more than any other Man I ever saw.—

[5] In Colonel Donelson's Letter of the 10th March from Hillsboro^g. express as before alluded to is the following Paragraph

I now see a fairer Prospect of Speculation in the Land way than ever, Warrants are to be had at low Prices indeed I have purchased to a considerable Amount with my Horses—Searcy's List of Warrants remaining in Armstrong's office at NashVile was of great Use & Benefit to me—There is an offer made me by M^c.Carthy of New Bern *for as much* western Lands as I can procure to the Bank's of the Mississippie—He is employed by Robert Morris, he shewed me Morris's Letter I evaded Doing any Thing until I saw you but I did not give him that as my Reason—I have promised to meet him again on the Subject in two or three Months, however I shall take your Advice in that Case. I am very anxious to see you—

In answer to this Paragraph I have advised Colonel Donelson [6] without Delay that is before his Departure from North Carolina to proceed to your House and to act on the Occasion as you shall advise assuring him of your better Ability than myself to advise and of your Candour—You will understand that if you devise the Making a good Bargain that you are to be a Sharer in the Advantages to which you may rely that Donelson will readily agree and Stipulate

Donelson both in Bargaining and Executing is tardy, you must give him *Action* or perhaps better provide that some active Person shall be engaged to *execute* such Bargain as he shall make under your Direction—

You are certainly better enabled to advise than I am because you will know what Cap^t. Chisolm has done or whether King or Winchester have done any Thing as well as Know at what Price the Grantees in North Carolina will sell at,—Captain Tyrnel is yet here has not yet made any Purchases of Cumberland Land he goes on the day after tomorrow for NashVile but I begin to believe he is not well supported therefore cannot raise the [7] the Price above 1/3 of a dollar per Acre in the Hands of the Cumberland Grantees in Fact I suspect he has no Sum of Cash

to give at any Price—Perhaps Col. Winchester may have informed you that he & Col. King on the 7th met Col. Potter & others on their Way as he said to this Place to purchase Cumberland Lands for which Winchester & King asked Potter & Party a dollar per acre—

Potter & Party came on as far as Jonesboro^g. 100 Miles above this Place & I have heard were about to turn over to Buncombe County—I have not heard what they did or that they did any Thing at Jonesboro^g.—Thus I have enabled you to give the best Advice in my Power to Donelson as to what he shall do with Carthey.—Colonel Hays direct from Philadelphia says 9^d. Penn—May was the highest Price he could have obtained for choice Pieces of Cumberland Lands.—

On the 19th Instant Molsey was delivered of a Daughter both as well as can be expected—The Child is praised for [8] for size & Beauty—The Name is doubtful Molsey says Eliza, I say Indiana to Settle the Dispute perhaps we shall take both.⁴² Thomas Gray is here viewing the Country [He is] highly pleased & determined to move his family next Fall[.] he even declares if his family were here that he would make a Crop here this year⁴³—We expect at least 10000 people to settle [here] by the 10th October which I hope will complete our Number 60'000 & make us a State of Right⁴⁴ and if I did not sincerely indulge this Hope I would resign my Appointment the first Hour I had Leisure to write it—I am disgusted of the rascally Neglect of Congress & weary of the Duties of office—However this is my Country under all Circumstances, a great Field is yet to open—I am with affection

W^m. BLOUNT

[No address.]

⁴²The child was called Eliza. She grew to womanhood in Knoxville and married Pleasant Miller.

⁴³Thomas Gray from Bertie County did move to Tennessee and Willie Blount, a half brother of John Gray, William, and Thomas, married his daughter.

⁴⁴Blount was planning to change the Territory into a state. Through this action he hoped to secure more force to protect the area from the Indians and thus increase the value of land in the area.

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

[March 29, 1795]

Sir

I will be at Washington by Son rise in the Morning or soon after—I hope then to find Willis their [there] & to Close things to Wish

Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Sunday 1 oClock

PS.

Herewith you have a Book in my Trunk to Register the Moore [County] Grants in, also 230 Grants. please to begin at the Lowest Number & go on Regularly let the Certificate of Registration have no Date only thus. Moore County. Registered in Book FF^o—they must be done before the 20th of April—

Am^t. 175.183 Acres. [registered in name of, *sic*] D^d Allison

You have herewith Registered from Montgomery [County] 13 Grants Am^t. 73.600 Also from Richmond [County] 4 Grants Am^t. 185600 [registered in name of] J.G.B. Registered from Robson [County] 6 D^o. Amt 41000 JGB Registered

175.183

73 600

185.600

4.100

438.483 Acres

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

CHOCOWINATY—March 29th. 1795

Dear Sir/

When I got to Lumberton the 17th. I found J Willis had not entered the Ball^{ce}. of Robson [County lands] as you'd directed and I supposed was done. I learned from him he had made a bonifide Sale of 9220 Acres for 922 Doll^s. or their abouts, this Land is to be in Either Robson or Bladen, or somewhere Else in

that part of the Country the Quality not to be Questioned. this he said he must have Also 5000 Acres in the Great Swamp he said you'd Agreed he should have[.] Also, that Rhodes and the others was Also Content he should. & to which I had no Objection as to myself booth these Quantitys I located in his own Name so as to have you out of the Question, & in the 5000 the Company⁴⁵ is to have no interest & he is to pay the fees himself, in the other Quantity the Co^r. is Interested and is to be Common Stock. the 200 Entrys of 640 Acres Each is in your Name am^t 128,000—for the Co^r. which with all the other Lands is to be Accot^d for as soon as the Delivery of the Lands Can be Effected—Roads [Rhodes] says they shall be surveyed by the time the Warrants Can Issue & that he Must have 100 £ in hand on them & the Ballance upon Makeing his returns say the [2] 18th or 20th June—& Sir for his fees Now due & 1000 Doll^s besides I can I think git his hole Interest— Col^o. Willis will take 2000 Doll^s in hand for his whole Interest & let him keep the Two Quantitys of Land entered in his Name as Stated on the other side, & he paying the fees—this is on Conditions you think that 9^d Can be got for any other Quantity of other Lands he Can git from S^o. Carolina which he thinks he Can git at 20 D^s. Pr Thousand as fair [far, sic] as money Can be raised & wishes you to Join him to Induce him to Come forward I said I would try to rais Money & Join him, but Sir you Can do best in this, & make such use of me as you may Chuse. he selling out to you had best Indorse the Papers to me. on rece^t. of the Money & it Aught to Appear to be thus for 1000 D^s. & he to hold the Two Pieces of Land this Closes the Business with Rhodes, & the order must be given on J L. Porterfields. & our Contract. for his Proportion the other order Aught to be on Oggs order on Allison—Col^o Willis seems very clear that Rhodes's Qty of Land as in His returns will hold out but is of Opinion No more Aught to be run as it Opens the Eys of the People & Shews them their Situation [3] this Openion is a Measure Coinsidering with my own I ordered Strouther. when

⁴⁵No formal contract for this company has been found. But the contents of this letter; the one from George Ogg (January 20, 1795, page 475, above) upon the death of James Porterfield; John Porterfield to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1795, page 557, below; and the Presentment of the Grand Jury of Fayette District in Papers, page 654, below, fill in much information concerning the company. There still remains the question of the total success of the venture; the part David Allison received; and the profits, if any, received by John Gray Blount. The financial failures of Robert Morris and Judge James Wilson and the death of David Allison left much land unsold and many acres were later auctioned off for taxes. The human wreckage was equally as great as the financial. Robert Morris fell from his position as the master financier of the country (unfortunately his biographers fail to tell the story of his land speculations with any degree of fullness) and James Wilson committed suicide. Gabriel Ragsdale, David Allison, and probably William Blount were among the unfortunate victims. Hardy old John Gray Blount seems to have weathered the storm, at least he lived to a ripe old age.

he finished the 17,000 Acre Survey to Assist in Lay^s. the other Warrants in the County untill the 10th of April when I would see him at Fayetteville and have then your Opinion on the Subject, & Direct him in the Carrying into Effect the New Entrys as Deputy to Rhodes—

It is my Opinion Jn^o. Porterfield will sell Oggs order on Carns for Ja^s. Porterfields Interest for 100 D^s. if he will I am clear to Purchase it As I do suspect he will hardly be able to Procure sufficient rece^{ts} for Monys he & Ja^s. has had, & he will when he finds Rhodes & Willis has sold will for the Ball^{ce} in Money give me an assignment thereon—

	Deduct Carns's	500.000	
The Interest of Carns's Contract stands thus or nearly so			
Sales of 500.000 Acres at 1/. P.C.			£ 35,000.00
Costs of 500,000 at 30/ for State fees	£	7500.0.0	
Surveying—say		1250.0.0	
Entry takers & Sur- fees say	(450.0.0	
		(
& Registers fees	(
	£	9200.0.0	
Commissons & Insidental Charges say		800.0.0	
	£	10000.0.0	
Equal to 20,000 D ^s . a 7/6			7,500.0.0
			17,500.0.0
Deduct for Ira [sic] Atkins say a 24 th . part & say....			730.0.0
			16 770.0.0
—Half to D ^{od} Allison			8 385.0.0
P. Carns 1/5	£ 1677.	P.C. to the Share	
G. Ogg 1/5	1677		
J Rhodes 1/5	1677		
J Willis 1/5	1677		
Ja ^s Porterfield	1677		8385.0.0
Thus or Nearly so will Stand this Business			

[4] Lands Entered for Carns's & your Contract Viz^t.

Montgomery	163.200 #	Brunswick	100,000	
Moore	256.000#	Bladen	200,000	
Acres	419.200	Robson	250,000	
JGB	209.600	Richmond	200,000	
JP	160.	Cumberland	326.400	
P	40		1076.000	
		Deduct Carns's ..	500.000	
			576.000.	a 9 ^d . £ 21600.0.0

State fees on 448.000 Acres a 30/.	£ 6720.0.0	
d ^o ——— 128.000 d ^o . 50/.	3200.0.0	
Entrytakers & Su ^r . fees & Registers		
D ^o —say	500.0.0	
	<u>10420.0.0</u>	
Surveying 576,000 Acres say	1380.0.0	
	<u>£ 11800.0.0</u>	
Equal to 23600 Doll ^s	7/6.....	8850.0.0
Each 100,000 Netts £ 2217:8:0 or thereabouts.		<u>£ 12750.0.0</u>
Deduct the 14 th . Part of 200.000 for Singletory		
say Nett £ 4434:16.—	£ 316.15.0	
Deduct 14 th . for Atkins on 100. d ^o	158.7.6	
This aught to 1/12 p ^t . of 100 by rights—		475.2.6
		<u>£ 12275.0.0</u>
Half to JGB		6137.10.0
		<u>£ 6137.10.0</u>
Jn ^o Porterfield for 1/5.	£ 1227.10	
Geo Ogg for 1/5	1227.10	
J Willis for 1/5	1227.10	
J Rhodes for 1/5	1227.10	
RB for 1/5	1227.10	£ 6137.10.0

Thus or Nearly so will Stand this Part of the Contract—and as for the #Montgomery & #Moore Interest in which only you Jn^o Porterfield & myself are Concerned it is of no moment in it their will be no sail, he relying fully on you for his & Ja^s. Porterfields Interest in the above Statement

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

[No address]

David Allison to John Gray Blount

April 3^d. 1795

Sir

I received your letter of advice as to the reception of mine inclosing two sums of Money and Certificates which I hope has in a small degree relieved your Wants, I could send no more at that period but expect to be able to send you by Col^o. Blount £1800 in Certificates and ten thousand dollars in Bank notes or Cash, with this you must try to divide so as to give quiet to the Entry takers until I can supply you fully attention to which shall not be wanting and hope it will be speedy, as Col^o. King has rec^d.

of the Treasury 60,000 D^{rs}. for the Territory and goes this morning, of which I am holder of near one half, he promises me it will be sent me in 60 Days you may therefore count on 10 or 15^m of this you may wonder whey only that sum, I only say my wants here are almost as pressing as yours and must retain so much as to keep me up—Hurry Grants as fast as you can but pray have them either granted in my name or send me a Power of Att^y or Title by which I may convey here—all Interest is defered by such mistakes, equal to 164 Doll^s. P^r. day, I think it ought to [2] be otherwise—Altho I cant raise money as fast as you can apply it yet be assured I shall do as well as I either can or know how and hope on a close of the business it will meet your fullest approbation and expectations.

I admit your Apology for not writing me, a good one as you did not know, I had rather bear the burden than injure the feelings of my friend, for I am well versed in adversity and used to scolding and the frowns of the World, and what will please you more, I am now able to bear all you can say to me, The ague is gone and with it all my feelings and appearance of Sickness and I hope will continue so—

You will be surprised at your not getting Iron as you wrote, but more so when I tell you I could not get as much in the City of the kind you wanted I therefore sent none, if you wish the order yet completed write me and I will send the same to the Works and have done and sent you

I am Sir Your Ob^t. Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: Free

John Grey Blount esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. 10th. Ap^t. 1795

Dear Sir,

Inclosed I send you the award of M^r FitzSimmons & M^r Blight respecting the liability of the Cap^t. & Crew of the Tuley for damages paid on Goods damaged by bad Storage & an

account of the Monies paid for said Damages—also a Copy of the award of the Same Men on the matter last submitted to them— & a Copy of the Invoice render'd by Mess^{rs}. Ketlands for the two Casks Hoes rec^d. of them & sent you by the Tuley—the originals of which I send you Copies, & the Vouchers proper to prove the payment for damaged Goods, I have in possession & shall bring with me—as I do not Suppose it absolutely necessary that you should have them before I arrive, I decline sending them [in order] to save postage which would be considerable.

That I have had Rascals⁴⁶ to deal with all round you will be convinced by these papers if not by What Smith has told you— & how the matter is to terminate is yet doubtful—I believe I shall commit the Business to the management of our friend M^r Barr as possibly it may be necessary to call upon M^r Allison to give testimony & besides M^r B is the best Dun of the two & I wish the Scoundrels to be dealt with, with all [2] the severity that Dunning can impose—The Sally⁴⁷ arrived here last Sunday Evening & will sail Tomorrow w^h. 1 Ton Iron, 1 Ton Nail Rod— $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Spike rod, 500 lb Steel def^r. kinds as per order—a Chair Harness for Augustus Harvey & some Water Colours, Indian Ink & Rubber, a proportional Dividers order'd by R Blackledge—besides the bread order'd—

The Tar was del^d. in excellent order & sold @ 16/ for Notes at 60 Days— & the Peas @ 5/. P Bush⁻. But the Staves would not pass muster & are returned according to what the Cap^t. Says was your order—If the Tar had arrived 2 days sooner it would have sold at 17/6, but w^h. [with] the Sally & before her one day only, there arrived 2 or 3 Vessels loaded with it—& the price fell of course.—I have just heard by a young Man from Occacock, who came there in S & Barrs Schooner, that the Russel has arrived & I congratulate you on the occasion—I had given her up for lost.

I have been necessarily detained here 'till this time partly by the two Vessels & their Business & partly by D. A on whom I now wholly wait but he says he will be ready by Saturday Night next, & if he is, I shall assuredly start on Sunday Morning in his Phaeton as I came. He says I shall bring what will Make you glad to see me, & I am glad of it [3] as otherwise you would

⁴⁶He has reference to the Ketlands who had chartered the Blounts' vessel for England.

⁴⁷The Sally was one of the Blounts' vessels. The amount of iron products indicate the extent of the firm's nail business. Consult indexes of *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I and II for references to the nail business.

find & really have reason to look Sour—markets at Lisbon are low & so I expect they are or soon will be, especially for Naval Stores, in England & all Europe for the taking of Holland & its Navy &c. &c. &c. by France seems to have brought the English in some measure to their Senses—the Sense of the Nation is evidently for peace & from the Debates in parliament it is to be fairly infer'd that it will be accepted when ever it can be obtained—I conjecture it is on the Tapes [sic] now, if it is not already concluded.—

I have mended much but am not now mending—However I do not fall back Much

Yours &c

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Halifax)

Mail)

Potts & Gibbs to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON 11th. April 1795

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Sir

Agreeable to the request of our friend Mr. Richard Blackledge, who left this a few days ago for Fayette, we have to inform you of the arrival of Two Spanish Brig^{ts}. Prizes to the French Privateer Schooner Called the Mouche, with Valuable Cargoes, consisting of wines, Oil, almonds, Linens, Clothes, Checks, Hatts, and in Short, a general assortment, of Dry Goods, amongst which are a large quantity of Silks, Laces, and Umbrellas, the whole of which, and the Vessells are to be Sold here, and the Sales to Comme[n]ce on the 12st. of this Instant, the prime Costs of the Cargoes is Said to be upwards of One Hundred thousand Dollars—from the Scarcity of Cash, in this place it is Supposed, the goods will be an object of Speculation, and Some Purchasers are expected from Charleston—the Conditions of the Sale, Cash, or Bills of Short date on Charleston, with approval indorsers—It is generally Suppose[d] that the Sale will not

Commence as Soon as advertised, as the Vessells are yet at the Flatts, and have to lighten up, and an entry of one only made yet. at the Custom house—

We offer our best Services, to yourself or any of your friends, in this, or any other Business you may think proper to order.— we are very respectfully

your most Obed^t. Servants

POTTS & GIBBS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Merchant
Washington

Post)

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE apr 14th 1795

Dr Sir

Your letter by Capt John Smith Came to hand as also the letter including the Public letter, which I will attend to as soon as Convenient [convenient], I shall [on] the first fair wind go Down to Cape Lookout to See how our fishermen come on, I had a letter from Pinkham the third of the month, he had then made up 75 Barrels of Large Mulletts, and Said that the Small one had not begain to Run, they are allways the Last that Run, that I am in hopes we Shall be able to ketch 70 or Eighty Barrels of them, I will write you what we have on my Return.

I have not heard from Prescoat or Tully, but will on her arrival do all that you Resque [request] Capt Thos. Smith says he must have a pilot or would Ruther have one, as two of his men has Died on his passa[ge] therefore I am obliged to Send up Perry who I wish you to Send down as Soon as possible.

I have been trying to Raise the Boston Brig that was Cast a way in the Gale but have not done it, and have Quit her as I have gone to as much Easpence as the [agent, sic] of the owner Give directions to do., She is a fine Vessel[.] it is a pity She Should be lost.

We are all well at the Castle.

I am Sir Your mos Obt Set.

JOHN WALLACE

N. B. I told Pinkham

to Ship to you 20 Bal^s [barrels] of Mullet if he could
at 2/ paper . . . J. W.

[Note on back of letter]

I have Shipt your Barrel of Spirrets of Turpentine, Rosin and
Varnish to D. A. [David Allison] by Capt John Smith. J.W.

[Addressed:]

John G. Blount Esqr,
Capt T. Smith) Washington
Brigt. Russell)

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK, April 16 [1795, sic]⁴⁸

Dear Sir

Your Letter of 16th ult does not fully solve my doubts respecting the possibility of forming a contract for Naval Stores. Is it possible to effect a revolution in the whole system of Tar in Carolina? If not I never will move Tongue nor Pen nor adventure a shilling in this Business. A parcel of Russian Tar Brls leak no more than so many Brls of beer. Our Tar is put up as a worthless Thing in Brls only fit for holding Potatoes. fifteen p ct. did absolutely leak out of the Tar sent two years ago from Edenton to Brest. But the land and Clay and a large proportion of water remained. The French Risa Company are powerful and could easily induce the Inspectors to damn such execrable Wares. I will try to send to Carolina an European Tar Brl. With a little foresight our Wood may be seasoned and with a little care the Brls may be made Tar, tight. Is not a greater curve in the Stave or a longer Bilge necessary? In such Case the Hoops well driven [become, sic] tighter. A tight cask being provided, surely it is practicable to have clean Tar put up. The Tar Reservoir may be planked so that no Dirt shall be taken up by the Bucket. Other precautions may be taken against Dirt. The greatest complaint is made against Water. The following experim^t was made in France: one Brl half full of Russ. another half full of Amer:

⁴⁸This date is determined by the reference to the "new maps" in the last paragraph of this letter. The North Carolina legislature passed an appropriation measure to pay Jonathan Price and Nathaniel Christmas for making the map in 1795. Senate Legislative Papers, 1793 (The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), 35.

Tar were filled up with water. after standing six months it is said that the water originally in the Amer. Tar occasioned all the other Water to incorporate The Russ Tar & water remained separate. [2] I have mentioned a greater Curve in the Stave or a swelling in the Bilge as an improvement, but I conceive that the Staves ought to be of at least double the present thickness, the Russian staves are very thick; This in case the joints are good must inevitably prevent leakage. Suppose you was to get a Brl made of the present shape but of wood perfectly well seasoned & the Stave exactly twice the usual thickness Fill such a Brl with Tar and try [sic] it in the Sun. I conceive that our Tar losses by one means or other 8 P Ct: before it is shipped. Add the 15 P Ct: lost at Sea this is 23 P Ct But the 15 Brls lost at Sea paid Freight say £ 3 Stg rather more than the cost of 15 Brls, another 15 P Ct: The Brls lost also pay Insurance & expences of loading as well as shipping & occasion a general Cooperage, set down the whole at 2 P Ct: it certainly is more but this makes 40 P Ct. a loss not to be endured. Add to all this, when we come to the French Market our Tar sells for 12 livres when that of Russia is selling for 20. Is it not worth while to endeavour to get pine Tar put in good Brls? Be so good as think of those Complaints & the most practicable remedy.

I wish some of your new Maps of the Western Country sent here, perhaps it may be worth while to print a small Description of that County in a half sheet Pamphlet to be circulated with the maps.

I am D^r Sir Your obed Serv
HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N: C.

Free

Hu Williamson

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE April 20th 1795

Since writing you of this date I am taught to believe that an agent of Col. Potters will engage for 200'000 acres of Cumberland Lands at $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per Acre and if he will Col. Donelson will make the Contract—Potter has lately been in this Country.—I advise you to secure all the Military Lands and Land Warrants that you can—There are a great Number of Military Warrants in the Hands of William Lytle and Donelson says he will readily give a List of them if applyed to so to do—He offered to give Donelson a List but Donelson neglected to take it.

W^m. BLOUNT

John Gray Blount
Washington
North Carolina
Mr. Beaird)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE April 20th 1795

I make it a Rule to write you every Time I have an opportunity, if it is only to inform you or rather to give you to understand that all is well at the Time of Writing unless the contrary is expressed and that is the present Case as near as may be.—Yes I now recollect that I have just received a Letter from [Nicholas] Romaine in answer to my Letter forwarded to him by Captain Chisolm—He does not accept my Proposals but proposes others too lengthy to communicate at present but such as I think well of & the Scheme appears practicable—Captain Chisolm has not returned and He says when he arrives he can explain more fully—One part of the Scheme is to lay out a large City two Miles Square five lots to the acre adjoining this Town which by the Sales in Europe is [2] is to nett about 80'000 dollars Profit I shall say no more than to advise you not to make any sales of Cumberland Lands—I will send you a Copy of the Doctor's [Romaine] Letter by the first Safe Conveyance after Captain Chisolm's Return—This great City is to be called Palmyra and

to be laid out upon some new and elegant Plan and to be handsomely delineated—But all this to yourself for profound Secreacy is essential to the Execution for as yet I have not purchased all the Land for this City and besides Secreacy throughout the whole Scheme will be necessary to the Interest of the Parties—Its a Scheme that may afford Profits to us without the possibility of a Loss.—

I daily expect the Return of Col. King by whom I shall hear a full State of Things from David Allison

I still Keep the Nail Factory & sliting Mill in View and shall be glad in meeting your Concurrence—I am with affection

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

North Carolina

Mr. Joseph)

Beaird)

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE April 24th 1795

I think I have before informed you that Colonel Potter⁴⁹ had been in this Country and that it was supposed Speculation on the Cumberland Land was the Object. I now learn that was really the Object—He has appointed Colonel Cocke his purchasing Agent Half a dollar will be his highest Price & Colonel Donelson will have a Preference.—You are to understand However that Cocke is not yet in the Posseon [possession] of the Cash nor has he yet complete Power to purchase but he shortly expects both Cash & complete Instructions.—This Information is given you that you may delay no Time in purchasing Cumberland Grants & Military Warrants

I wrote you lately that there are a Number of Military Warrants in the Hands of William Lytle as List of which you may obtain on application.—The War between the Chickasaws & Creeks goes on and Peace [2] to the Fronteir Inhabitants from the Creeks & lower Cherokees is the Consequence what do the

⁴⁹See Masterson, *William Blount*, page 378. Masterson does not identify Potter very well.

United States not owe to the Chickasaws but alas they are like to fall Victims for their Friendship so evidently manifested for the Frontier Citizens. The Creeks to the Chickasaws are as 16 to 1.—You may if you chose send this last Paragraph to the Press.—I forgot tell you when speaking of Cocke as a Purchasing Agent for Potter that he has some Thoughts of repairing to North Carolina in about 2 Months if he does not bargain with Donelson to purchase through the Country from Individual Holders.—

The General Assembly will sit at this Place about the last of June when I believe it is certain it will be determined to call a Convention to form a Constitution⁵⁰ &c.—We expect at least 10'000 additional Citizens before the last of October.—Col. King is returned and he says what I can't believe that [3] Allison by his Contract with Wilson is to have 70 Cents per Acre for all Lands he offers in this Country clear of the Indian Claim but if so I suppose you Know and it ought to be an additional Spur to you to purchase all the Cumberland Lands you can—.

Military Warrants can be laid to advantage & without delay,
All well

I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

[No address]

J. G. Blount

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Ap^l. 26th 1795

Dear Sir/

yesterday got hom got the Sch [Schooner] Fly over the Swash. and the Beaver Discharged. have taken and order on Shink [J. G. L. Schenck] for the Lighterage which I have enclose^d. to you as there is no Vessel at this time bound to Philadel^a, am Sorry to tell you that while I was at your place wee have had a Negro Fellow the one I bought of Gaskins last year Drowned—

⁵⁰Blount was very anxious for the Territory to become a state. He hoped that representation to Congress could have more effect on the Indian problem when coming from a state than if it came from a territory. The Northwest Ordinance on which the government of his Territory was based provided that the Territory might take steps for becoming one of the states of the United States when the population reached 60,000. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, IV, 18-19; Henry Steele Commager, *Documents of American History* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 5th edition; 1949), "The Northwest Ordinance," 128-132.

I was offered for him a few Days befor I left home three hundred Dollars—there has been a Very heavey Gale of wind at this place—Arnold Rhodes is Cast a way but his Vessel and Cargo will be Saved with Exspence of unloading—I have this Day despatch^d a gang to Cedar Island after Logs. I Exspect to hear from you Every day in haste yours

JOHN WALLACE

[Postscript]

Much other Damage has been done at the Barr one Sloop lost on Royal Shoal—old Davie has bouth [both] his Lighter Sunk one Loaded Lost all her Cargo. the other Emty—wee have Lost nothing by the Gale.—the Negro was lost but [2] Observe I am oblige^d. to assist Ar^d. Rhodes in his Distress. J.W.

[Postscript] The Salley anchor is not got—J. W.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

Samuel Spruill to John Gray Blount

TYRRELL COUNTY, y^e. 27th April 1795—

Sir,

Having not an oportunity to answer your letter before This, I embrace this to inform you of my progress in your business in this County, I have been to the Entry Takers office and have given him what enstructions I Could about forwarding your warrants, which he is about making them out and I expet [expect] has nearely compleated Them by this time; I have draw^d. a map of all the part I have Survey'd in order to ascertain the number of vacant Lands within the bounds, which I find to be near about 180000 Acres which I have compleated, Except the running out two Small creeks in order to show on the main Platt [how, sic]* the Granted land lies on them, in a Short time I Shall apply for the warrants, and then make out your Returns for the Secretary's office and when that is done I Shall conduct the whole business to your view at—Washingtown &c. there is amuch larger quantity of vacant land in this county than I expected there was before I began to Survey it, I know of large quantities of vacant land

* The manuscript is torn.

that lies to the westward of the Allegator River⁵¹ therefore I Should be very glad if you conclude to take all the vacant in this County, whether I may proceed on immediately or not to—Survey it as I wish to have your enstructions for it again[.] Please to write every opportunity you conveniently can &c &c I Remain, with respect

Your most ob^t. Serv^t

S. SPRUILL

I am verry thankful to you for the faviour you done me in Sending the Secretary's Rec^t. to me which Shall not be forgotten—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

John Wallace to John G[ray] Blount

April 30th. 95

D^r S^r.

this Morning Rec^d. a letter from M^r. Thomas Tunnis[sic] who wants the Beaver to Lighter his Brig over the Swash She is on her way by this time from New Bern, if She comes befor I hear from you I Shall litter [lighter] her if not Shall not—I have Told Bill Wallace to Call on you to See if you want to Give him a freight Down, as you know by this time which way the Tuley goes—I Exspect to hear from you Every hour, all well at the Castle

yours JOHN WALLACE

April 30th. 95

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Merch^t
Washington

W. Wallace

Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 30th. April 1795

Dear Sir,

I was at the Entry takers in Tyrrel yesterday and was informed that M^r. George Pollock had made Entrys for ten thou-

⁵¹The Alligator River lies in Hyde County.

sand Acres of Land on Milltail and Intends returning in a few days to enter a larger quantity. I think you have not been so regular in laying your Entries as you might have been—The Entry taker has written you I expect fully on the subject, you have his letter here enclosed—I entend making Some entries adjoining yours in a few days but dont mean to interfere with any of yours—If M^r. Price⁵² be now with you will thank you to tell him I should be glad he would call on me when he comes this way—

I am Dear Sir Respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
JOSIAH COLLINS

John Gray Blount Esq^r
[No address.]

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

Bensborough May 6th 1795.

M^r. John G Blount

D^r Sir inclosed You have letter unto M^r. Jesse Hollingsworth directing him to send the Iron. I shall want one Ton myself all flatt Barrs please make your Scheme for the four Ton to please your own fancy and inclose in the letter Seal the same & for [forward] it By the Bell

My flatt left here yesterday & will be down with the Pork to go on Board Scarborough to day or Tomorrow will thank you to see the Bills of loading signd which I send down by Spain to the Address of Captain James Donaldson of Norfolk. I am Dear

Sir Respectfully
Your Most ob^t
BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: M^r. John G. Blount
Merchant
Washington

P post)

⁵²Probably Jonathan Price.

*Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount*TOWN CREEK 6th May 1795

Dear Sir

I have Sent to your Care 51 barrels of pork which I wish Ship^t. with Mr. Atkinson under the Same Directions of his as he will tel you. you may have it pickled⁵³ if you think it will be of Servis—

if aney Return [any goods arrive] from Philadelphia or new york please Send it by the flat or if aney leather &c Comes aney time when my flat is not Down please forward it by the first op-
portunity as it is much wanted[.] if aney oppertunity of wright-
ing to Philadelphia please wright the Mackies to forward me
the am^t. of the Shipment last faul [fall] by your [vessel] on my
a/c as I have Sent to them twice and had no answer[.] please Ship
my bacon (which I underStand Came Down to late for Cap^t.
Neal) by Some vessell to the best market you Can for Cash.
please let me know when the Navil Stores will be wanted for
the Tuley and I will have them Down Should have Sent Some
now but under Stood no Room Could be found for it upon the
wharfs yet⁵⁴—

I am Respectfully yr^s. &c

AMOS JOHNSTON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

John Hudson to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 9. May 1795

Sir.

By Pat. Kieffe you will receive One Hundred and thirty two
Barrels Corn & Fifty nine Barrels Pork. have it Stored on my ac-

⁵³It was not unusual for pork to be pickled for shipping. This was done by putting it in a brine solution. Saltpeter was also used to preserve fish and pork.

⁵⁴This letter indicates the great amount of business done by the Blounts for their customers. Benjamin Atkinson and Amos Johnston were active merchants and exporters and they usually sent their goods to the Blounts to be shipped. They desired goods in exchange and the Blounts saw to this exchange also.

count[.] by the first oppor^{ty}. please Ship the whole of my Pork
to Baltimore. to M^r. William Matthews

and oblige your ob^t. Serv^t.

JOHN HUDSON

John Gray Blount esq^r.

Adressed: John G. Blount esq^r.
Washington

J. J. Jackson for John G. L. Schenck⁵⁵ to John Gray Blount

[TARBOROUGH, 13th May 1795]

M^r. John G. Blount

Sir.

M^r. Schenck said for the Surplus Peas after paying for the
400 b^a. Salt he wish'd to have laid in at Jamaica for his Account
in a Hh'd Rum and the balance then in Sugar—He will write
you on this Subject from Philadelphia, but having been detained
by a Long Passage from Norfolk to Baltimore, and fearing the
Brig might Sail before his Letter wou'd come to hand requested
me to inform you thereof—I am Sir with

Respect Your most Obd^t. &c.

J. J. JACKSON

for JN^o. G. L. SCHENCK

Tarborough 13th. May 1795

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Merchant
Washington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a May 14th. 1795

24th May 95

D^r. Sir

David Allison

By Monday's post I rec^d. your three letters one of the 22nd.
Ult^o. enclosing M^r. Richards account the success of which will

⁵⁵J. G. L. Schenck of Tarborough. For a sketch of Schenck see Letters for 1791-1792, page 209ⁿ. 64, above. The plan for a John G. Blount & Co. mentioned below was probably associated with Allison's plans to go to Europe to sell land. It was thought that while he was there he would be able to serve as a mercantile agent as well as a land agent. Goods could be shipped to the house in Philadelphia and reshipped to coastal merchants.

be answered by saying he is not arrived.—To one of the others of the 29th. I have enquired at the Insurance Companies here, who say the Premium from Washington to Liverpool & back will be 9 P^rC^t. and to Jamaica 7½ the return to be to any port S^o. of New York.—Your Other of the same date informs me of the safe arrival of the Sally and that the Articles Shipped you came safe to hand—Tar is from 15 to 16/. and will probably continue at that—Your bills are & Will be duely attended to so long as I can do any thing and the Storm is no worse than heretofore and perhaps never can be—I hope to forward by next Post from 8 to 9^m £ North Carolina Debt to you for payment of my debts in part and will continue them in View and steadily press forward to a final discharge of them and believe me however hard you may judge me, I can do no better or I would—M^r. Blackledge has written me—M^r Ogg [2] is here waiting the moving of the Water, he offers me Porterfields part which I have refused, I think you can make the bargain better—

Nothing can be more pleasing than to have war [warrants] come on speedily but in doing this I wish some attention was used in examining them whether they are compleat or not in the last parcel the Register only signs his name on the back of the Grant without any Certificate of registry—these things are great bars to my sales here and easily remedied when they are with you—for ease and convenience in making Conveyances you would do well to have the Grants in my Name and send a plot or general Plan of the Grants how they are connected with each other—I would like the Buncombe lands in 1000 Acre surveys and laid down on a plot stating their numbers and connection by lines &C.—I have made no sales since Col^o. Blount left this and not many purchases

You know the quantity of land I want in each district I wish you could ascertain how near you come to the quantities and let me know—

As you send me Grants it is necessary to get Certificates from the Clerks office of the County where the lands lie and from [3] the Clerks office of the District that no Judgments are obtained or Executions issued against me or Records of Mortgages made by me whereby any part of my real property can be incumbered—and let it be done in a genteel Manner and well connected with good Margins and the Seals of Office if they have them if not with their private Seals (stating that they have

no seals of Office to these there must be the Certificate of a Judge that AB.⁵⁶ who signs the annexed Certif.—is the Clerk of— District and that due faith and Credit is to be paid to his attestation as such—also the Certificate of the presiding Justice that AB. is Clerk of — County &c. To all these there must be the Governors Certificate that one is a Judge the other a Justice &c and that Faith &c is to be paid to their attestation to this add the great Seall of North Carolina neatly impressed and I had better have two of those Certif.—for Cumberland and Moore Counties as I have conveyed from those two Counties the lands sold M & N. [Morris & Nicolson] and there is also some in each for the Judge to each of whom I must give a Certificate—

If you could ascertain the Amount of lands in each County I would know whether to continue to sell or not I am now in Treaty for 50^m—L Sterling worth of Goods for land and hardly know what to do until the quantity is known lest I should drown the miller—The Adriana is gone to [4] France therefore Ketland [will, sic] give you no goods by her—

Mr. Schenck informs me you wish Goods to be supplied your house as they are done to houses here, to be delivered Leak & C^o Liverpool I will make some arrangements to let you know, but observe you are wrong to say to Leak & C^o for by that you will have to pay double Commission one to the purchaser another to Leak— If I can make my Contract for Goods a connixion of that kind will natur[ally] result therefrom.—If I can form proper plans Mr. Schenck will commence business here under the name of John G Blount & C^o. If so I hope you will give us what start you can in West India produce of this I will give you further notice as it becomes matured. I hope you are in full possession of my Ideas from Col^o. Blount before this and hope to have your opinion thereon by next post

On Saturday I hope to settle with Jackson which if to my liking I will propose to sell out to him my part in the house of J B Evens & C^o. and confine myself to the Other and become a nominal Partner.

You'r Ob^t Serv^t

DAVID ALLISON

[No address.]

⁵⁶AB is Allison's "John Dow." He uses this for a form. The name is entirely fictitious.

*John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA 14th. May 1795.

Mr. John Gray Blount

Dear Sir

I received by the last post your Two esteemed favors of the 23^d. & 29th. Ultimo inclosing Captain Adams draft, for the trouble you have taken I am under particular obligation, to the Contents of yours of the 23^d. Shall pay particular attention & for that purpose have mention it to Mr Allison. to receive introduction to the Agents from the Manufacturing houses I have been employ'd Since my arrival in forwarding some Goods by Captain Worden who Sail'd from this place on Yesterday & hope that before you receive this he may have arrive Safe I have wrote to Jackson to send down all the Pork & Bacon I have on hand to be Ship'd on board of Captⁿ. Wordens Brig for this place but if the Bacon or any part of it could be exchanged for Turks Island Salt at 7½ or 8.—of Bacon for a bushell of Salt could wish it to be done & you will oblige me to exchange if it can be done on those terms, also inform upon what terms a Thousand bushells T. I. [Turks Island] Salt can be purchased for Bills on this place at 60 days sight, I wish much to have a Stock of Salt on hand for the fall in order to command the Back Country trade which I think will prove the insueing Season to be a very profitable one, as the articles, of Flour and Tobacco will be much in demand & I think high—I directed Mr. Jackson to request the favor of you that [2] that if there should be a balance In the Pear & Salt barter for you to order it to be laid out for my account in Sugarr—

I have not yet been able to form a correct opinion of the present Trade of this place, indeed every article of Merchandise appears to be an Article of Speculation, provision are said to be low in Europe & Still they appear very anxious to ship every kind, great quantitys of Salt'd Provision is Ship'd to France—I saw a letter from Lisbon dated the 6th. March which cotes [quotes] Flour from 4010[sic] to 12 Doll^s P Barrell but mentions that the prospects of their Crops was very bad & that the prospect of bad Crops throughout Europe would occasion a rise of Flour & Grain of every kind, however the article of Flour here is too high to purchase on Speculation S. [super] fine is 12 to 12½ Dollars P Barrell and said to be looking up—the prospect

of the present Crops of Wheat is said to be very indifferent & it is my opinion that the article of Corn will be a good one next Season, Naval Stores ear but low & Turpentine will be the best of that article, during my stay here shall give any information that I can collect in the Mercantile way

I am with great Respect Dear Sir
Your most Obt Servant
JN^o. G. L. SCHENCK

[3]

Flour 4.90/. to 9 3/9 looking up—

Wheat.....16/. to 18/.

Pork—Burlinton—120/. to D^o

D^o. Carolina.....100/. to 105/. D^o.

Tarr.....15/.

Pitch.....22/6.

Turpentine 18/.

Corn.....4/6. to 5/.

Rum Jam^a.....8/3—

Sugar.....75/. to 105/. Gro. Hundred.

Coffee.....18^d to 18½^d.

Free, Jno. G L Schenck P M

Addressed: Tarbo 25th May 1795

John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH—May 15th. 1795

Mr. Jn^o. G Blount

Dear S^r. I rec^d. yours by the Post which alamed me as you told me it wou.d be time enough for me to have my last load of Naval Stores down by the 25th May. You mention my being Short 100 bb^s. certainly you must be mistaken W^m Ore told me I had upwards 150 bb^s. on your warf besides what lay down towards the Still But should it be the case I have wrote to Mr. Henryhan [to] deliver you my part of the load so soon as the flatt returns she is to load down with Tar & Turpentine which I can easily pay what may be wanted to be Borrowed I wish to Ship fifty Barrels Turpentine which I have now up here if I am

not too late I have not yet sent down my beeswax⁵⁷ I herein inclose you the letters to Lake Gilchrist & Barry which please to fill up & Seal. believeing you will do every thing Necessary for the recovery of the Insurance the Bale Ozs. [Oznaburgs] Sacking Holland & Sheeting cost all on £47.11.8 Sterling without any Commissions or freight the Handkf^s. £14.11.2 like money[,] the Cask of Nails £4.9.9—as I shall be happy in paying you with generosity for your Troubles and shall at all times have pleasure in any Service I may be able to render unto you here[,] have you heard any thing from Oliver Neal or Scarborough Since they Sailed Should Scarborough arrive before I come down [2] and there is not enough of my Stuf at Washington to load him he must wait untill it can be got down—this you write me about when he arrives It was in my mind to Ship 200 bb^s. Tar 100 bb^s. Pitch & 100 bb^s. Turpentine in the Tuly with what little Beeswax I have on hand, but wou.d be more agreeable if you could take in all that I have up here which is near three Hundred Barrels chiefly Tar to come down in the flatt the next load pray Sir have you rece^d. any thing more from Mr. Mecham I begin to think he will Disapoint me I much want the Transaction Closed—

I am Sir in haste Your Most Ob^t

BEN. ATKINSON

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

William Gorham to John Gray Blount

BRIGG TULEY 16th May [1795, sic]

Dear Sir

I am happy to enform you that Im Safe over the Bar after waiting twelve days for a fair wind

Will take it as a favour if you will be so good as to Ship 30 barrels tar to Philadelphia and consign it to Edward Gorham N^o. 24 Walnut Street and Oblidge your Humb^l Serv^t

WILLIAM GORHAM

⁵⁷The reference to beeswax as a commodity indicates the extensive and varied uses for it in the eighteenth century.

[Attached] Memmorandum of Sundry articles for
— the Tuley —

2 Long Boats Oars 18 Feet long

Case of Knives and Forks if we have any passengers

½ Dozen Coffee cups and Saucers

1 Fourteen Second Glass if to be got

pump Leather & Leather for the Riggan

1 Top mast Steering Sail Boom T the squa*

Some Old or New Canvass to mend Sails if it should be wanted

the Iron Pins and Sheaves for the yeard arms and T Mast Heads

½ a Dozen Soup plates would not be amiss

a Speaking Trumpet[,] Cap^t Smith has taken his away

the Cook will be glad that you would Send him a Blancket

WILLIAM GORHAM

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Henry Selby to John Gray Blount

REFUGE 16 May 1795

Sir.

I have been intended to Washington. ever Since the arrival of the Brig Tuley—to supply myself with such things as I wanted from Her Cargo., but have at length determined on coming at Court

Should any opportunity offer. beg you woud send the Hhd Tobacco, and two or three Reams of Paper—with which I learn you was Supply^d. in the Brig Tuley—

I am going to move my Goods to Mattamuskeet, and when I come to Washington shall wish to make a purchase of more provided you woud afford me suitable terms. My offer will be to make a payment in Corn at Washington price delivered there as it would not be in my power to make payment through Latham. as the amount of former—purchase will be as much Cash as I coud engage by his necessary time viz, the first day of October.

In case the Crockery ware is not all sold keep me one or two Crates more.—Do not be offended If when I come to washington I shoud tell you that you charged me more for the goods than

* The manuscript is illegible here.

you formerly promised to do.—I have lately come from Mat-tamuskeet where I have the most flattering assurances of an—
[2] Advantageous Trade there the ensuing Season—

You will please let the forgoing arrest your thoughts sufficiently to return me an answer at Washington Term [of Court]—always suffering the price of my former purchase to Merit more generous terms for the future

With gratefull Sentemints

I remain your Humble Servant.

HENRY SELBY

NB. Captain James Webster will perhaps bring the Tabacco &c —if you will take the trouble to name it to him—HS
If you shoud have leisure. please write me by my Brother. if you think Corn will answer you.—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Hutchins Selby

John G. Blount Esquire

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN May 17th. 1795

Dear Sir/

Inclosed you have Copys of the Plans &c. of the Returns Rece'd from Onslow County am^t. 101343 Acres being on the Hollishelter⁵⁸ & Cape fear Waters the White Oak Pocoson, is so incorrrectly done by Taylor that Johnston says he Cannot by any Means Venture to Make Return thereon without again Runing it.

M^r [Jonathan, sic] Price has Assisted us in Dressing & Correcting the Works which I think you'l find is well done—Johnson⁵⁹ begins to Survey on Monday & hopes to Accomplish the Runing the Outlines in a Week of the White Oak Pocoson & git to his Fathers.— He Complains much of Frye. who has like the Dogg in the Mainger not yet done the Work or Permitted him to do it in Jones [County] and as soon as he Closes the Onslow Business will Persue him untill he Arrests Either the Warrants or

⁵⁸Hollyshelter Creek, a northern branch of the Cape Fear River.

⁵⁹Amos Johnston was acting as a land agent for John Gray Blount and seems to have been associated with the land company.

Plotts from him & will Close that Also. tho' he is first to Carry the Onslow Works threw the Office & I do not see him Again. which I shall be governed by on my going to Raleigh or Glasgow⁶⁰—& the Train Porterfield & Strouther [John Strother] has got things in at Raleigh Also I send you the Deputation &c for Allen. from Mr Tillman—

Mr Price Says he will go for Carterright [Carteret County] on Wednesday Certainly and as soon as he Can Close the Business their & In Craven he will Return to Washington—[2] Johnston says. the Dupelin land is not entered or was not three Weeks Agoe their is their about 50,000 say[.] Shall I Close it if in the way Answer me to this & Raleigh.

I am Dear Sir

Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Jones will not take Land from me at aney Price or any where. at half a Dollar. but Talks like the Philadelphian that Land is selling at Phil^a. a 1/— & has no Regard to Quality[,] little has been said on the Subject and Closes that when I am able he hopes I will Pay &c—

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington

Josiah Collins, Jun. to John Gray Blount

EDENTON May 19th. 1795

Sir,

I am favored with yrs of the 5th instant—Yesterday the Boatman you mention called on me for the Rigging you had written for, but it was not in my power to send it by that opportunity, I will however indeavour to make it in time to be sent to the Bar, either by M^r Littles Brig or M^r Jacksons Ship—Such has been the demand for Cordage at this place for a month or two past, that I have not been able to keep even a coil of Rope on hand to supply those who frequently apply for it in small quantities⁶¹—

⁶⁰Probably James Glasgow, secretary of state in North Carolina.

⁶¹Collins's comment was not exaggerated. A contemporary newspaper item gave an account of thirty vessels being built in the district of Edenton, and Collins was said to have been "constantly employed in rope making." His product was described as of the best quality and "universally allowed by the best judges to be superior to any imported." *The Herald; A Gazette for the Country* (Halifax), May 16, 1795.

If you will take the trouble to send me a bill of [2] such Cordage as you have occasion for, (you mention you are daily wanting it) I will make it as soon as possible & forward to Wallace by some Vessil—

A bill on Philadelphia at 60 days will answer my purpose as well as the Cash at that time—

Yrs very respectfully

JOSIAH COLLINS JUN.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

Abner Neale to John Wallace

NEW BERN May 21st. 1795.

Dear Sir/.

I send you by directions of J G Blount. four Sides of Sole leather W^t. 32^{lb}. for the Brigg Tooley and two for the Russell W^t. 14¹/₂^{lb}. at 2/. P. lb. amounting to £4.13/. all well yours &c.

ABNER NEALE

[On back]

For want of Information I have been obliged to Open this Letter on ^a/_c of the Leather

R^d BLACKLEDGE

*Jⁿ. B^{te}. Dewaux to J[ohn] G[ray] Blount**

BALTIMORE Le 27. May 1795—

Monsieur

Je vous Prie de me Rendre le Service de me faire avoir un Expedition de mou act de naturalisation qui So trouve dans les minuten du Colonel Brown qui demeuré Pouvrors a Calts. et Entre les main de qui Jai fait le serment

Je ne me Rapel Louis de ha datte mais il vous sera aise' de le servir Eu cherehaus L'Epoque que Le navire at Ete' Expidié a Washington Par Le Cap^t. quis. j'ai Ete' naturalise' quelquer teuer auparavant.

*Translation for this volume by professor Quentin Oliver McAllister in Papers, page 656, below.

Le Colonel Brown in' avoit Proveir de me douvier Le Certificat, mais jai negligé' de le Lui demanden dans le temir, Cette Piece me serain très accessaire dans Cette Circoustance et je me doute Point que voulie' avoir La Couté de me l'Europein Par la Premiere Coume occasion [2] qui Je Presentera chez vous Pouv Cette ville je vous Prie d'y goindre le Compte des res de baucir afin que je le Reinit au Porteur

J'attend Cette hounettete' de vous Et vous Prie Croire Celui qui L'honneur d'etre

Monsieur

Votre très humble
& très ob^t. servitieur

Jⁿ B^{te} DEWAUX

Je vous Prie de metre votre lettre sour le Couvert de M^r. Jacob Knab, tailleur En cette ville.

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Richard Lake to John Gray Blount

KINGSTON JAMAICA June 12th. 1795

John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Sir

Captain Britts on his arrival here, afew Days ago, in the Sloop Bell, delivered me your favor of 29th. April & likewise presented for payment, your order, for the amount of my Bill of Exchange remitted you long ago, for the sum of £277.8.7. Sterling, in consequence of its being returned to you protested for non payment.

I considered it extremely unfortunate that Captain Britts had not been charged at the same time with the original Bill, & protest, whereby, on paying the full—Amount of principal, Int. reexchange & Costs, which I shou'd have had great pleasure in doing, I might have received from him, the only proper & effectual Discharge I Know of, Viz^t. the possession, of Original Bill & protest, with your order to pay it.—It will I make no doubt on a reconsideration of the matter, appear as evident to you as it

does to me that no *Notorial Copy*, of Bill & Protest, can authorise any discharge to be given to the Drawer, as the Holder, of said Bill & protest may at any time, make his demand, & to the person offering the Bill & protest for payment, the Drawer must pay. The—mode [2] mode therefore you have adopted being irregular, I hope on the arrival of your Vessell the Russell, that the Bill & protest will accompany her, when the Dollars shall be instantly paid. to your Order, for the Amo^t. of prem⁻. Int. reexchange & Costs—of said Voucher, w^h. is as you have been informed 14 PC^t. on the Prin⁻. Amo^t.

I am extremely obliged to you for—continuing your Connection with my Brother William Charles Lake [of Liverpool] & shall be extremely happy to render you Services here. Whatever you may at any time choose to Consign to me, if the Articles shou'd not on arrival be Sale able, may be Stored, & the Amo^t. of their value Shall be by the Vessel returned you in produce or Cash, as you may direct.—Inclosed you have a price Cur⁻.⁶² & remain most respectfully—Sir

Y^r obed^t. very Hble Serv

R. LAKE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.
Washington
North Carolina

Favored by)
Capt. Britts)

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. June 12th. 1795.

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the 26th. Ult^o. respecting the Tuley for ensurance whereof I will duely attend and can inform you that my delay heretofore has been attended with advantage for ensurance is now lower than when I first rec^d. your order.

I could not get a Boat for the Brig ready, they are now making and will be forwarded you as soon as done and with every dispatch but I fear will not be so soon as you would have wishd

⁶²This accompanies the letter.

My enquiries have extended to all the Islands and ensurance is nearly the same I will however delay that for some time and if *Jays* treaty is a good one I hope it will diminish the premium. I have not yet the Markets so as to send you but will by next post.

I am pleased to hear you say you will attend the Certificates they are of great importance, I am preparing Powers of Atty. for you when ready they will be sent you

You advise the selling your Beaufort lands at one dollar [2] which I would gladly do for the very reasons you have given but money cant be had for it at one half that Sum; I am now in Treaty for two millions so as to include 500,000 Acres in Buncombe not sold the Judge [James Wilson] together with some others in the Territory Kentuckey & Virginia in which I expect half a dollar p^r. Acre with liberty to draw for the same in Nine M^o. on the banks of Hamburg and Holland for the Am^t. this is so pleasing that I had rather get that than the promise of a dollar here: when it is determined you shall hear from me, the prospects are *now* flattering.—

I feel sensibly for your want of Cash and am arranging as fast as possible to get it to gether with some Certificates which I have prospects of at present, I will not promise you when but you may depend no time shall be lost unnecessarily.

Mr. [George] Ogg is with us I mean in Phila^a. he is muttering I tell him the lands for the first contract are not yet come forward which is true (altho I have taken some of yours to compleat it) and that your not being concerned in the first bargain I am not ordered to apply your company lands [3] to the use of the other Company,⁶³ but he urges they are the same for these reasons you had better require me by letter to forward you the notes for the Am^t. of your Contract immediately on the land being forwarded which will give me time to arrange with Ogg. I think this prudent for if John Porterfield and Atkins have been playing the double Game in Montgomery I shall not consider myself

⁶³There seems to have been two companies with overlapping membership. See John Porterfield to John Gray Blount, Fayetteville, June 27, 1793, page 557, below.

bound to give them any part of the present money as it will not cover the purchase and half of the profits on the whole amount

I am Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

No money yet from the West

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Post

Blake Baker to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH June 19th. 1795

Dear Sir

My man Bob having fancied to himself much pleasure from the enjoyment of freedom has taken it into his head to leave me this morning with the view I have no doubt from the best information I have been able to obtain, to Ship himself for some land of liberty on board of the first convenient Vessel at your place or he may perhaps go to Newbern should he fail in his attempt with you

He is a fellow well known to M^r W Rhodes⁶⁴ & others of Washington, if not to yourself, and I shall be obliged to you to assist the Bearer Reuben Smith in endeavouring to apprehend him for which purpose I hereby authorize you to do whatever you may think best for me & as to a description of him I refer you to Smith who knows him full well As I am determined after this not to keep him, if you can sell him, should he be caught at Washington, even for West India produce, that is Jamacia Rum of a good quality not regarding its' being new or good Muscovado Sugar, you will oblige me much in disposing of him for me on the best terms you can, but as he is a good Barber, understands a good deal of the Sadler's business, is a handy fellow in the house &c. I think less than 250 Dollars ought not to be taken for him & that is certainly low as Negroes Sell now & should suppose that 300 Dollars [2] might easily be got for him in the Articles I have mentioned as I am told that they are

⁶⁴William Rhodes was a young sea captain from Washington, North Carolina. William Rhodes to John Gray Blount, New York, July 24th, 1795, page 571, below.

plenty & cheap with you now particularly Jamaica Rum which I am told may be had at a Dollar P. Gallon by the Hoggshead & if so I should like to get a Hoggshead at all counts, if it is good for my own use, to keep

Should you not readily find a Market for the fellow I think that he can be Sent by any Vessel that may be going soon to a port where he will sell to advantage I must beg of you to have him sent for me & let the returns be in the Articles I have mentioned and any trouble or expence you may be at in the business I will chearfully compensate you for

Yours &c

BLAKE BAKER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

In his absence

Mr. William Rhodes

Washington

Reuben Smith

Charles Gerrard⁶⁵ to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH June 25th. 1795

Sir

Mr. Thomas Blount was trying to buy Bakers Mill & Land adjoining it, before he left home, but they Could not agree, Baker has this day offered the mill & Land to me for T. B. & myself including that part of the Land Joining mine and that part Joining & fronting the Town from the mill to the Corner of the Town next to Irwins, Say the north Corner, in all 343 acres at 1300 dollars half payable first of Jan^y. next & half the Jan^y. following. this is a high price, as I Consider the mill of little value only that She will be in our way & perhaps will Injure ours which I think valuable & will be much more So when the others is down. It is my opinion of two evils it would be best to Chuse the least, and I think to purchase bad as it may be will probably be the least however I wish your opinion and authority for bargaining for Tom. It has been always understood betwen him & myself that if the Land was [2] ever purchased by either of us that I Should take a deed for the 50 acres over the mill run adjoining

⁶⁵For a sketch of Charles Gerrard, see Letters for 1790, page 8n. 21, above.

my Land, and that he was to have all on the Town Side of the run and Joining the Town. I wish your opinion by first opportunity and if it is your opinion that I Should buy, autherise me to take the deed for Thom's.—part & give notes in his name for his part of the money agreeable to the payments above mentioned.—

I am Sir

your Hum^{ble}. Serv^t.

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. June 26th. 1795

Sir

I received yours of the 12th. Instant by Capt. Werdren with its inclosures for which I thank you and will now answer you in every part—

The Certificates that no Judgments Ex^a. or Mortgages stand against me in the Counties of Cumberland & Moore must be had to close the Contract with M & N. [Morris & Nicolson]

You say there is great difficulty in Surveying the large Swamps & in getting money to pay the Entries by which the business is retarded, the first I can easily suppose to be the Case the second I am sure of and will only say that however much you are distressed I am not less so, but I had expected to be so indeed I could not do otherwise when so great an undertaking was attempted without any funds for I had none nor have I got any since from any quarter but by my Industry in financeering which has not remitted altho I am now at a Stand, but we must bear the present distress with Patience and resignation looking to the future reward which will fully compensate for it or I am much mistaken. and to alleviate your feelings for the present in some degree I can tell you I have made another Sale of 250^m in Virginia for Cash from 10 to 20^m dollars will be paid me next Week of which you shall receive your dividend which enforⁿation may regulate your Conduct as to Singleton and as [2] soon as the monies can be had for it I would recommend the purchase

of the 50^m I am also in treaty to secure about 100^m\$ for the pay^t. of debts and to preserve Credit here which as yet stands the highest among the Land Jobbers altho it has been with great trouble and Sacrifices for Morris & N's paper would command little or no money & I have none of the Judges [Wilson's] as yet—I am also attempting and have some hopes of compleating a purchase of between 20 & 20^m £ north Carolina debt at 12^{mo}. Credit which will be obtaining money at 6P^r Cent Interest a great Object at this day & the Credit will give time for funds to come in.

I am not uneasy about there not being the exact quantity of land for the Judge in each district, he will take it elsewhere & will be fond of that in Edenton district he has been requesting me to get him some in that—& I am not afraid of the date for making the Titles provided I get a good part of them, for he likes his bargain too well to resign it—I am pleased to hear that my Calculations as to quantity will be exceeded it will be necessary to hold one or two 100^m Acres to make good deficiencies by elder titles.

The Boats for the Russell will be compleat to morrow and go by Werdren

[3] As soon as I get the money I will send a man with it to you—I cant sell your 39^m in Beaufort or 50^m in Tyrrell for the Value shall therefore decline and depend on the Virginia Sale—

I have done nothing yet with Jackson, he promisses as soon as Harvest is over he will—[John G. L.] Schenk will return until I can come forward on better Terms after settling with Evens—I have long since called for your A/^c. with my own but have not yet got it.

I am with respect

Your Ob^t Servant

DAVID ALLISON

[No address]

John Porterfield to John Gray Blount

FAYETTVILLE June 27th. 1795

Dear Sir/

Mr. Blackledge Informes me you will give me Two Thousand five Hundred Dollars for my Brother James Porterfield Interest

in the Two Concerns of the Land Business Payable the First day of Novem^r. Next, which if you'l send me your Notes for the Following sums that I Can Negotiate to my releaf I will Accept of and make such rights theirto as you may direct—I have Impowered Mr Ogg to sell the right & Interest of my Brother with him & Carnes which if he does before he is advised to the Contrary of your purchase for that Interest I will Transfer to you the Like Quantity of Land out of my own Interest with you the Notes I shall want is one for 600 D^s. One for 800. One for 550. Four for 100 Each & Three for Fifty Doll^s Each. Am^t. Twenty five Hundred Dollars—Answer me by M^r. Blackledge & Oblige

Your Ob^t. Servant

JOHN PORTERFIELD

John G Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

William Kennedy to John Gray Blount

[June the 29th., 1795]

Mr. John G Blount

Sir

Upon inquiry I have been informed that two of my Negroes with a couple of yours, and Some belonging to other people have had an unjustifiable battle that the one of yours which has received the wound was the first agressor and began the quarrel with the one of mine who gave the wound, but as good order among Slaves should be attinded to. I am willing that mine shall be chastised and at the Same time expect that you will correct one of yours, and the other where his Situation will admit of it as a partial correctishion will only Serve to excite those who go unpunished to the like mischief

I am yours &c

W. KENNEDY

June the 29th. 1795

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

John G. L. Schenck⁶⁶ to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 1st. July 1795

Dear Sir

I received your favor by Worden & am obliged for the Trouble you have taken in the endeavoring to procure me Salt, it is an Article that I shall want much & have to request the favor that If any comes to market to give Mr Jackson information of the Same

I did not forward the orders for Goods to Liverpoole—when I arrive here M^r Allison had in contemplation the importation of Goods from England & that yours could be included with them, he will not be able to accomplish his Scheem for the present & it is now too late to order them from here as all the orders have gone forward—The above is also a reason that I shall not stay here longer then the Month of October at furthers & indeed I like better the Situation at Tarb^o. to the bussell of this place I should have returned by Worden but as the Sickly Months advances it will be as well to keep out of their way—

Stuart & Barrs Schooner arrive here last week from Antigue [Antigua] the markets when she left it were pretty good, Corn 9/. P Bushell & Rum at 4/. the markets in Port au Price & Jamaica I also understand are pretty good, but no kind of callculation can be made as they are very fluctuating, I had one oppertunity for Port au Prince & Ship'd 50 barrells of my Pork—no Vessell has sail'd for Jamaica Since the rec^d of you^r when an opportunity offers shall attend to your request—

I shall thank you for your opinion whether anything can be done at Raleigh during the Setting of the assembly & who could be got there to attend to the business, I have forward'd on some fine Cloth & Cassemirs, that should supose would suit well during the time of the Assembly but the greatest difficulty would be to get a trusty Person, you will oblige me by writting on this Subject by the first post—

M^r. A. [2] M^r. Allison has forwarded your boats, by Worden also a P^r. Boot Hat & the last Law & Journals of Congress, he will write you by next Post as he has been too bussy to day, & request me to observe that he had only neglected one post day—

⁶⁶See reference to Schenck on page 541*n*. 55, above.

Below I give you the present prices Current how long they will Continue so I do not know, Good brown Sugars are very Scears & will continue to be high

I am with great Respect

Dear Sir

Your Ob^t. Servant

JN^o. G. L. SCHENCK

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

P Captain Worden	Corn.....5/ to 5/6
Rum Jamaica 8/. to 8/2.	Wheat.....12/8. to 16/.
D ^o . Antigue 7/3 to 7/6	Pork Carol.....105/.....
D ^o . Windward 6/9 to 7/	Tar.....13/6 to 14/6.
D ^o . Country.....5/9—	Pitch.....22/6.....
Sugar Jamaica 90/. to 110/	Turpentine.....20/.
" Common—70/ to 80/.	W. O. Barr Staves.....135/.
Coffee 20 ^d . to 21 ¹ / ₂ ^d .	D ^o . Hhd.....240/
Cotton.....2/2/ to 3/36	Tob ^o . Carolina, 37/6
	Iron, Russia.....£ 32.
	D ^o . Pensy ^l£ 35.
	Nail rods.....£ 41....

Eben Love⁶⁷ to John Gray Blount

NEW PROVIDENCE July 4. 1795

Dear Sir

I received your favor P^r. Capt Prescott, and have sent Williams Harvey by him which I hope you will see in perfect health, my having for some time past been Afflicted with a severe Rhumatism (so much as to be deprived of writeing) has prevented me from Answering your many favours which duly came to hand, and hope you will excuse me. the Boy is a well disposed boy and I am extreemly sorry, he has been neglected for want of Education, but it is even the case with my own son. first my going to plant [settle, sic] on an out Island and now living in the Country has put it out of my power, of placing

⁶⁷Love was apparently sending this boy to be apprenticed to John Gray Blount.

either of them at School, I live in hopes of once more seeing you and Your good family, till then adieu, please make M^{rs}. Love's and my Compliments Acceptable to M^{rs}. Blount

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly,

EBEN LOVE

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount

BUNCOMBE July 4th 1795

I have rote to you Before this Time since my arrival from your Country But leaving [lacking] a Safe Convoy I thought proper to rite by Every oportunity[.] I have at last obtained a Deputaion [deputation] from the Surveyor and am now going on with the Business[.] I presented him with your Bond for the half feas but he would have nothing to do with it but agreed to give the Deputation if I would give him my Bond with Security for the half feas which I have done. I was favored with Security By Mgs John Carson of Burke Brotherinlaw to Colo Joseph McDowel Deccased & a Mgr [Major] Mckenney of this County the Sum I have given my Bond for is £1248 15 at the Calculation of £1 9 9 on Each Entry of 640 acres the half of which Calculation amounts to the above Sum—He would fain have had Calculation of 4/ on Each 100 acres after the fist 300 at 16/. But that I would not agree to as it would have been the addition of four shillings more on Each Entry of 640 acres If I have done wrong in giving my Bond I hope to be Excused as I thought I was doing Right to Save what I could as he had dishonarably [2] Departed from the first Contract made with him I have employed Colo Love⁶⁸ to Survey By the day at the price of £1 5 0 agreable to your derrecttions and Expects in a [few] days to have one other Surveyor in the Business of the name of hardin who has with much Satesfaction to your Brother William Blount done Considerable Business for him Both in Surveying and other Business

⁶⁸Probably Colonel Robert Love, a prominent figure in the western area.

of importance[.] Joshua Williams has the Surveying Business in this County for Cathcart V Stedmore and has made Entries to the amount of 1003.000 which has an interference with our Entries and they have paid into the Tresurys office money to the amount 140.000 acres and I am apprehensive they wish to Survey or plat prevately and go forward to git thare Grants But I keep out a Constant wa[t]ch and think if they do so I shall get Knowledge of it and Should they make any survey on Entries made since ours I am Determined to go forward and Caveat their works, as I keep a hors [horse] Constantly in keeping for that purpose. I wish how soon the receipt from the Tresuror for the purches [purchase] money might Come forward as that would put matters of dispute further out of [3] of Sight with them as they wish to insinuate that the first money paid to the Tresury ought to Bind the right of obtaining grants Esecuse the lenth of thie Epissel as I know you despise long letters I am

Your most Obdt—

G RAGSDALE

J. G. Blount Esqr—

B The Scouts or patroles are disbanded on the fruntears; and thare are apprehension of hostillytys with the indians as some person people in pursuit of horses Stolen from the fruntears of South Carolina Came up with two indians with the horses on the frunters of this County which is Bordering on to that State and killed them[.] Both wh[i]ch the indians have threttened to revenge on these fruntears and we are informed by a "Trader Sworn Before a Justice of the Peace in this County that they have two or 3 men from this County who were in thare Country at the time those two indians were killed. in Confinement determined to kill them if Satisfaction is denied them we have had late information from the Territory of Mr James Lackey and six other men Being killed in the Cumberland mountain when out surveying the truth of which I truth of which I could not undertake to assert.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.

Washington

Beauford County

North Carolina

Mr. Cathey (To the kear of Post master Salisbury

Hamilton & Wilkinson to John Gray & Thomas Blount

NASSAU 7 July 1795

Messrs Jno. Gray & Thos. Blunt

Gents:

Your kind favor enclosing Invoice & Bill of lading of sundries of Ship[ped] by you on board of the Schooner *Regulator*⁶⁹ Capt Prescott—as Capt. P. wa so kind as to put his cargo into our charge which we sold as much of as was possible before he left this, the Forty Eight Barrels of pork that now remains on hand if it dont Sell as high as fifteen Dollars which are doubtful that it will—shall wait your further order, but when Capt P [Prescott] arrives with you[,] [we, sic] can be better able to inform you[,] he is at present gone to new York with Pine Apples, Lignumvita & Turtle which hope will turn out to advantage his Stay here was only Seven days—
any command you may have here in future should you address to us shall always be attentive to

I remain your Abl Hbly Ser

HAMILTON & WILKINSON

Nassau: 7 July 1795

Prices curreant—

good north carolina pork—	13½ Drs
—Beef	8½ Drs
—Indian Corn	9/6 p. Bushels
22 inch Shingles	4½ Drs—
18 Ditto	2¼ Ditto
—Lumber	25 Dollars
—Ham	1/p lb
—Bacon	9 p lb
—Poultry very scarce	
—Philadelphia Flour	12 Dollrs P B.
—Turtle	9 p lb.
—Lignumvita	12 to 13 Drs p ton
—Pine Apples	4/p Dozen
—Limes	16 p Thous

Messrs Jno Gray & Thomas Blunt

Washington, North Carolina

P favor of Capt Russell

⁶⁹The *Regulator* was owned by Wallace and the Blounts.

*Thomas Smith to John Gray Blount*BRIG RUSSELL, July 6th. 1795

Brig Russell on my way out July 6th 1795

Mr. J. B. Blount

Sir

Yours of the first came to hand yesterday which informs me to proceed on to Jamacia & to try the markets at the mole on my way to Jamacia, which I shall conform to[.]

William Staffard leaves me & comes up with Capt Jasper owing to his indisposition in consequence of which I have Shipt [away] Aman a tolerable fore & aft sailor for 17 dollars pr month which is against me as I have not one a board that can send a top gallant yard Don [down, sic] Except myself, tho better so than carrying Aman to Sea who is from all appearances dieing with fevers, have I gave him what emetics I had & nursed him with every degree of Tenderness as I could one of my brothers but all proved infectual[.] I have panel of willing young lads to [do] what they know as I could wish which I can soon learn them the Parctical [practical] part of their duty

The Bill of Lading & Manifest is filled up[.] signed & left at the castle nothing now to say but

Please give my best [re]spects to all your family &c[.] hoping that the Stream will alter its course of time

I am as usual

Yours

THOS SMITH

Addressed: Mr. Jn^o. Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington

Jacob Rhodes to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE July 13th, 95 [1795]

Sir

Whereas I made application sometime past to a majority of the Company I was concerned with in the land business for leave to enter ten entrys of 640 acres each in the County of Bladen which was agreed too[.] but since I am doubtful they are not as

well reconciled to it as I could wish therefor if you will pay me the bounty (ei 30 pc) & the fees I will receipt to you for the quantity of 6400 Acres at the price you sold for—I have also entered 150 thousand acres now in the low County of Bladen lately [2] which If you think proper to pay fo[r]—& receive into the Company concern you may by letting me know immediately[.] If you do not choose to except [accept, sic] of the land for the company, please to make the same known to me as soon as possible as I now have it in my power to make sale of the said lands provided you do not think proper to receive the lan[d] as above mentioned.

With respect I am

Sir your Humble Servant

J RHODES

John G. Blount, Esq.

Addressed: John G. Blount esq^r.
Washington

Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount

EDENTON July 14th, 1795

Dear Sirs

Inclosed you have Burrus'es receipt for ninety four Barrells of Herrings, which is all that could be got there ought to have been 100. but one of the men disappointed me in six bbls. he has also on board the Riging for Rhodes, he has not been detained an hour here, I have not yet see [seen] the 60 Dollrs from gen. Skinner, owing to his new wifes being so ill that he could not sta from the bed side[.] he says he will pay it, I had forgot that I had Angels power untile the rec^t. of your Letter, which I shall also receive[.] The Commercial [Jay's] Treaty has made its appearance here a few days past, The Violant are lavish in their abuse; none but condemn it, you no doubt have it by this.

All well & join in

Yours &c

JACOB BLOUNT

Comp^{ts}. to All.

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Washington

Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount

MORGENTON July the 16th 1795

Sir

I have wrote several letters addressed to you But doubting the Safty of a Convoy take Every Opertunity of acquainting you of the Situation of your Business hear[.] I have fortunately met with Mr Brown whoes Entries in Buncombe County has an interference with ours and am happy to inform you that there is Every pospect of an Emmicable accommodation in Every stage of the Business which I am convinced will be perfectly consonent to to your wishes. I presented the Surveyor with your letter and Obligation for the half all legal feas But he refused to have aney thing to do with your obligation[.] the finding [on finding, sic] the Business like to be procrastinated I have complied with a proposition of his which was to give my Bond for the half fees with Security which we calculated to be the Sum of £1248 15s after refering the matter [2] to men who we Both Considered to be judges of what was the legal feas on Each 640 acres Entry which Brought it to that Sum of £1248 15s But upon reflecttion and further information I have Conjectured that the Calculation was not justly made Even to the disadvantage of 4 Shillings on Each Entry ware [were] it Be surveyed in large Bodys[.] But it will be as [I, sic] think in our favor to deduct from the Obligation aney Sum that may have Been wrongfully Calculated as it was a special Contract at the Close of the Business that if any mistake was made it was to thareafter Be recttified and it is likewise Expressed in the Obligation that the above sum is the legal half feas of the Surveys for you when Completed. If I have done wrong it is innicently done as well as ignorenty tharefor must not think you accountable for my mistakes[.] I am now going on Briskly with the Business of Surveying and Shall Be as soon as possable Rady to make Returns therfor with the receipt of the Treasuror to come forward as Early as [4] possible the Scouts or patroles on the fruntears are withdrawn so there may Be some dificalty in Surveying the western part of the lands therefore at the Earlyest opertunity pleas instruct me what will Be the most Elligable meathod of doing the

Business Whether By hiring a Small guard or only making a Corner and plating [plotting, sic] the land Your doing shall strickly be adheared to I am

Your Obd^t Se[rvt]

G RAGSDALE

John G. Blount Esqr.

To the Kear of the post master Raleigh

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Washington

Beauford County, North Carolina

Mr

Brown

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILA July 17, 1795

D Sir

I received yours respecting the Boats, they went by Capt Wendren long since and hope they have arrived before the sailing of the Brig from the Bar, the Capt was ordered to deliver them wherever he might meet the Russell

You say you have been offered a quarter of a dollar pr Acre for 100^m in Tyrrell payable at 3.6 & 9 Mo I am sure you could not hesitate in this great scarcity of money as it would produce something handsome to you, for I cant raise money here nor sell lands for money—I never knew it so scarce in my time here—great numbers of great respectable Merchts have been protested this & last Week— for myself I can say I never was so hard pushed not a [2] single remittance yet from the Territory 60^m S is there locked up as an aggravation to my Wants when it ought to be with you—It is imposible to raise money on any paper I have yet got—I feel no danger in the Judges [James Wilson] wishing to be off the Contract—I have given him deeds for upwards seven hundred thousand Acres which he has rec^d and is about inspecting when done they will be written off on the Contract—I have got his bond for two hundred thousand dollars payable at two years being for that part stipulated to be advanced in that term, which I am trying to raise 100^m on for the Completion of the Contract, this sum will enable us to save that part on Interest which is my whole aim

Cant Gerard N Carroaway be bought out in the Hollisbetter if they can do it, and write me that their pact can be had for a dollar per Acre payable at 6, 12 & 18 Mo, let the Consideration money in the deed be five Shillings so that I cant be taken in, I have told the Judge it will cost that Sum and doubtful whether it can be procured at all—that of Wheatons will be done on the same principle if you will write me to that effect observing that altho it may appear dear yet it is necessary to connect the Swamp altogether in one persons hands—I have said to the Judge that Wheatons will not come lower than $\frac{1}{2}$ a dollar at a very short Credit & perhaps one dollar at 6,12,18 & 24 Mo. this last must be the terms you will agree on—you need not speak to Wheaton only write me that he will take those terms if I send you on the papers, say notes of the Judge to me & any endorsement at those dates all will be settled[.] this will bring the Judge forward with more easily funds and in a Way he did not meditate and will balance for the large Credit I have given him on the other—I mention to him that Hollisbetter is the place where he ought to begin his first [4] operations of draining—I wish to know how much of the Green Swamp is secured for the Judge he has frequently asked If I could not tell him

Your last letters mention your presing wants I know them well and feel them severely but cant aid until I get money from the Bond or from the Territory—difficulties without measure have attended us in this arduous undertaking we must struggle under them[.] I hope our reward will compensate for our uneasiness, for myself I can say that even the riches of Peru, shall never again tempt me to undergo such another series of fatigue of mind, that of Body is easy. I am more wretched than the damned in Hell, but I know I will over go all, and at last stand firm, My fears have always prevented me from advantages which might have arisen thro your family, lest danger might follow & I am determined to be the only sufferer

Yours sincerely

D ALLISON

[No address]

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH July 19 1795

Dear Sir:

Mr. Craven and myself understanding you have many Hogsheads of Rum of excellent quality for sale, have determined on purchasing one of them. We have therefore to ask, that you will cause to be chosen from among them the one which in your estimation is best, & that you will forward it to Tarborough for us—give to Mr. Blackledge a Rect. for the amount of the Cost of the Rum, including the freight to Tarborough, and we will on his arrival here pay him the Cash: it would have been sent to you but we suppose this manner of paying would be preferred by you.—There is I believe a charge on your Books against me for some Fish & perhaps for some few articles of merchandise, should such [2] be the case be pleased to furnish the amot. and it shall be paid to Mr. Blackledge on his coming here.

Whenever you come to this place you will please bring with you the Rect. I gave you for the last payment in cash made on account of the public demand on your Brother William: I will then inform you wherefore I wish to see it—You will be so good as to recollect you promised to ascertain the amount for which I gave you Receipts for Receipts for Certificates paid last summer; When Blackledge shall be soon with you perhaps you can do so.

Your friend
JOHN HAYWOOD

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Mercht.
Washington

John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 22 July 1795

Dear Sir—

I wrote you by Captain Worden who I hope has safe arrived, no matterial change in the prices of any articles has taken place since then. the article of Flour still keeps up at present it is 11 3/4 Dollar, by late accounts from Europe particular from France

—mentions the price of Flour from 22 to 26 Dols pr Barrell but most kind of other produce is low[.] The present Crop of wheat throughout all the Northern States are very very great but from the Demand abroad it is suposed that for sometime to come the great change will take place, should they export large quantities of the new Crop of Wheat we may calculate that the article of Corn will be good and perhaps an object of Speculation, all kind of our produce is too in most part of the W. I. Islands, Particular Barbadoes, & think from the number of vessels that of late have gone to Port au Prince that market will be very much over done, indeed the Merchants appear to be somewhat at lost were to send their Vessels in order to make saving Voyages—the Price of Vessells have fell considerable within these Two months, and the demand for small vessels are over, I enclose you 2 News Papers which will give you the opinion the people of Boston & New York have of the Treaty [Jay's treaty], altho it is not much approved of by the merchants of this place, they do not trouble themselves in order to come forward to give a General Opinion. Perhaps the example that Boston has given them may tend to rouse them

I have shipped on board of Captain Mackes Schooner of Newbern, a Still Worm and Cap and four bundles of Leather for Amos Johnston and a Box of Medicines for Doctor Alexander of Tarb°. [I] have requested Capt Mackie to deliver them to Mr John Wallace to be forwarded by him to your care, I shall thank you to have Johnston's articles forwarded [2] and have the box of Medicines sent to Mr Jackson—

I am with great respeck Dear Sir

Your most obd Servant

JNO G. L. SCHENCK

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

A Still Cap. of Worm

4 Bundles Leather

Box Medecines

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

CHOCOWINATY July 22nd 1795 (Wednesday)

11 oClock—

Dear John/

I wrote you Sonday by Peter Casso. Respecting the Convicting Dav^d. Allerson's of my Land in Carteret by Colo Leech.—I could not see the Coviet or git the Grant to bring down to Colo Glasgows where I was obliged to git the signature of the Secretary to the Cumberland works which I have sent express for 40/ to L Branton who was on with the Robertson Grants to Register & was to wait my Return from Raleigh to give him further orders. I got from Colo Glasgow Orders where to find the Return of Allison's Carterit Lands if Branton Calls for it & Brings it to Glasgow on Sonday with the Cumberland Grants 15073 acres of the Roberson Grants abt 141,000 Acres the Jones of [and, sic] Onslow works I have with me Complete for Recording from the Secretarys office

Reading tells me Mr Price is with you[.] had you not better come here to night and we will go on to New Bern tomorrow. Mr Price Ought to come with you to go with us & Bring with him his map of that county to shew to Col^o Leech that no intention to injure him or any other Person has been intended Majr Blount says if you Come this Evening you can have his Horse to New bern. or even tomorrow evening as he goes a Hunting in the Morning [this] for Government [judgment]. his Bridle is in Town Bring it to ride his Horse [2] If any letters in the Office send them by the Bearer with Walter Henryhans Deposition

Yours &c

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington

P Danell

William Rhodes, Junior, to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK July 24th, 1795

John G Blount Esquire
Sir,

I arrived here the 22nd and had a pleasant voyage of 5 days only, from Washington, which I think must reflect a little merit

upon a young Captain, at least that he is Fortunate,—

I find the people here are very much displeased with the Treaty, the 18th they had a very full Town meeting in order for the discussion of the Treaty, Article by Article, in which those in favour & those against it, were all colleted [collected] together but those against it, were to powerfull for its advocates, and would not suffer it to be read, and consequently no discussion Mr Hamilton, (the quondam Secretary [Alexander Hamilton]) attempted to speak in fav^r. of the Treaty, but its adversary's prevented him, they even carried these resentment so far, that they threw stones &c. at him, which consequently obliged him to give up the point as those kind of arguments was too powerful for him to contend with They proceeded and burnt the Treaty.

In Philadelphia they have carried there [their] resentment still farther, they, in that Place burnt M^r. Jay in effigy, and are more exasperated than they are at this place/ if possible/ but in Boston they were more mild, they there called a Town meeting for the purpose of a discussion, and gave the Treaty a fair hearing, they even had patience to go as far as the 3rd article, then proceeded to pass judg^t. I condemned it, in toto. It is not known here yet, whether the President has given his assent to the Treaty or not, but the common report is, that he has done so— Inclosed is an extract from the daily paper [2] in which you will observe the situation of Montego bay,⁷⁰ the distress of that place must be very great indeed, and no one in this place doubts the authenticity of the report and consequently the people must be in great want of every kind of American exportation that is Lumber, and Provisions & must request you to have the Brig^t. William Loaded with Planks, Scantling, & Shingles, for Montego bay, & have her Loaded with all dispatch possible & order the Capt to purchase to the amount of his cargo, Rum & Sugar & get a freight to fill him up if possible for this place, but at all events he must come to this place, you will also load the Farne for the same place & order her to bring her cargo principally in cash, as she must return to Washington, but leave the whole business entirely to yourself & shall not doubt but you will order her etc. for the best.

I allmost lament, that I have not the ship at my command, as also her cargo, as I think the ship to go imediately to that place

⁷⁰Montego Bay is located on the northwestern coast of Jamaica. See "The Map of the West Indies Showing Ports of Call for Blount's Vessels" in *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, opposite page 175. In a later (July 29) letter to John Gray Blount, Rhodes spoke of Montego Bay being burned.

must make a great voyage but the die is cast, & it is useless to complain at what can not be avoided—

Inclosed is a price current of this place, which hope will be of some service to you,

I am dear Sir yours etc.

WM RHODES JUNIOR

I have wrote Jn^o Oliver to the same effect
suppose my Father will leave there
before this comes to hand
[Address torn off]

William Gorham to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL July 27—1795

Dear Sir

I am happy to inform you of my arrival in this place after a passage of 40 days and well and no accidents and am further happy to say that the Cargo is come to a good market Tar is worth 19 shillings and Turpentine from 18 to 19 shillings the amazing scarcity of provisions was never known to equal the present[.] Wheat has been sold for a ginea pr Bushel and our Indian Corn at 8 shillings p Bushel all the people eat Brown bread that is Rye and Flour mixed together there is no very interesting news here at present[.] it seems there has been a small engagement between the French and English Fleet It said that the English has taken the Alexander and two more small ships I am very apprehensive of meeting with a Difficulty with my people as they give 30 Bounty for an able Seamen and and £23 for Landsmen however ours have sworn at the [2] The Custom House to be all Americans— the English have taken a great many americans loaden with Grain and bound to France and have carried them in to England

I shall write you more particulars when I have time to get better information

your Afft Servt—

WM GORHAM

Addressed: John G Blount
Washington N. C.

Via Philadelphia)

Ship Active)

William Rhodes, Jun. to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK July 29th 1795

John G Blount Esqr

Sir,

I wrote you p post of the 24th this date, which is I suppose at hand before the arrival of this

In my last gave you an account of the burning of Montego-Bay, & of the wish I had of all the objects I was concerned in, going to that place, as I am possitive of Pitch Pine Lumber being very high at that place—

The Treaty, is the only contention in this place, few are pleased with it, and a large proportion displeased with it, yesterday a Notification was given to the Merchants to attend at the City Hall for the purpose of hearing the Treaty defended by Mr. Hamilton, but the day was rainy and but few met, consequently the meeting was adjourned untill a fair day, & even then I think Mr. Hamilton will have but few hearing of the general cry is [2] that Mr. Hamiltons eliquence can not change the glaring insults offered this country in the whole Treaty,—a war is even prefered by the people to a Ratification of the Treaty—

Inclosed is a paper in which you will see the peoples minds are averse to the Treaty, & also a Pamphlet intituled Franklins Letters, on the Executive, & the Treaty

I am dear Sir yours in haste

WM RHODES JR

[On back of letter.]

will thank you to write me at Providence Rhode Island. W R
[Address torn off.]

William Charles Lake to John Gray and Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL 31st July 1795

J.G: & T. Blount Esqrs

Gents.

It gives me much pleasure to inform you of the safe arrival of the Tuley Capt. Gorham; he got here on the 26th Inst after a passage of 41 days—Your Favor of the 27th May is delivered to me, and only a few days previous I received yours

of the 14th April & 6th May. It being neap Tides upon the Tuley's arrival has created a few days delay in delivery of her Cargo, but you may be assur'd every possible attention shall be paid to dispatching her home with the greatest expedition as no eligible Freight has offer'd to any other part of the United States. I subjoin our present Prices Current for your Government & you may be assur'd I shall pay the most particular attention to your interest in the disposal of the Tuley's [2] Cargo, & give me leave to make my acknowledgments to you for your very obliging introduction of Messrs Amos Johnston & Benj: Atkinson to my Correspondence who be good enough to acquaint that I shall pay particular attention to the Commissions they have entrusted me with. The new mode of carrying on the War by a descent on the coast of Brittany shews that Peace is further distant than sometime ago suppos'd, how it may end *for us* I know not but it is a quarrel highly advantageous to you[r] States. Grain you will find quoted at a price beyond any precedent ever known here, & the real scarcity of Wheat has made us gladly substitute your Indian Corn which you'll find quoted at 7/6 & 8/ p Bushell, I think it will still be higher before the approaching Harvest comes to our assistance, it looks well but much will depend on its being well got in to reduce this necessary of life [3]

I shall write you next by the Tuley & beg leave to remain most sincerely

Gent

Your most obedt. Servt.

W^m CHAS. LAKE

Prices Current

Tar	18/ to 19/6 p bb.
Pitch	9/ to 11/ p cwt
Turpentine	15/ to 16/ "
Wheat	19/ to 19/6 p bushl. Flour in proportion
W: O: Pipe Staves	£20 £22 p m)
Hhd Do	12 to 18 ") in demand
Bbl Do	8 to 12 ")
Indian Corn	7/6 to 9/6 p bushelDo
Tobacco	2/2 to 5° dull

Copy

J G & Tho. Blount Esqrs

Ballentine Fairlie & Co. to John Gray Blount

KINGSTON JAMAICA 4 August 1795

Sir

Since our last respects to you Captain Smith in the Brig Bell has arrived and informed us he had the original of the Bill drawn by M^r. Lake and we understand has received the money we enclose a sale of our markets here for your Government it is our Opinion that all the Articles of your produce but particularly provisions will support good prices for some time⁷¹ we are with respect

Sir

Your mos Able Servants

BALLANTINE FAIRLIE & Co

Newberne

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq

Merchant

Washington

N. C.

PRICES CURRENT

Wholesale

Kingston, Jamaica, 5 August 1795

Superfine Flour	per barrel	100/ a [to] 110/
Fine ditto	ditto	90/ a 100/
Middlings	ditto	80/
Ship Bread	ditto	47/6 a 53/
Pilot ditto	ditto	60/
White ditto	ditto	80/
Corn Meal	ditto	40/
Rice	100 lbs.	45/
Corn	bushel	6/
Pease	ditto	8/4
Oats	ditto	4
Mess Beef	barrel	110/ a 120/
Cargo ditto	ditto	70/ a 100/
Mess Pork		140/ a 160/
Cargo ditto	ditto	10/ a 12/
Butter	lb	18 ^d
Bacon	ditto	15 c
Lard	ditto	15 c

⁷¹The Americans profited from trade with the West Indies as well as with Europe during the war (French Revolution) between France and England.

Counterband {	Tobacco	100 lbs	45/
	Tar	barrel	40/
	Turpentine	ditto	40/
	Pitch	ditto	60/
	Rosin	ditto	50/
	Spirits Turpentine	gallon	5/
	Cod-Fish,	100 lbs	40/
	Scale ditto	ditto	35/
	Sugar, per 100 lbs		40/ a 70/
	Rum, per gallon, (proof 22)		4/
	Coffee, 100 lbs		90/ a 100/
	Cotton, lb		2/
	Mackerel	per barrel	45/
	Salmon	tierce	15/
	Ditto	barrel	100/
	Alewives	ditto	45/
	Herrings	ditto	45/
	Lamp Oil, per ditto, of 32 gallons		70/
	Spermaceti ditto, per gallon		4/
	Ditto Candles, per lb		4/
	Pitchpine plank, per 1000 ft	}	£ 13 a [to] £ 14
	Ditto Scantling ditto		
	Ditto Timber, per ditto, superficial		
	Yellow Pine Boards		£ 12
	Common ditto		£ 11
	Ditto Plank		£ 6
	Cypress Shingles, 22 inches		65/ a 70/
	Ditto	18 ditto	50/
	Common Shingles		40/
	Masts {	Wanted / a few/	
	Spars }		
	Oak Boards and Plank		£ 25
	Hickory Hoops		£ 12
	White Oak Staves, per 1000)	
	Ditto Heading	ditto)	£ 14 a £ 15
	Red Oak Staves	ditto)	7½ ^d
	Pimento,	per lb.	
	Ginger,	100 ditto	70/
	Molasses,	gallon)	
	Hides, each,)	none
	Exchange on London,		

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE August 7th 1795

Dear Sir

I am happy to tell you the Good Nuse the Castle has not suffered Twenty Shillings by the gale, althow it was the worst and hardest that Ever was known at the Barr, all the Vessells Cast away and most of them lost. there will bee on the 15th a number of Vesslees if I see a Chance of Speculation I will do it Every Body hear is Busy wrecking[,]⁷² my Brother David among the Rest he says he will go up and go in the Schooner, when She is Ready, which you will be able to let us know by Pinkham, the Beaver⁷³ has not come down, and am in hopes She was at Nixonton in the gale but have not heard from that part of the Country yet I suppose you have heard from NewBern by this, if not Pinkham Can inform you as also all the nuse he comes up to see if we can get 100 Bushells of [2] your Salt from Tarborough for our fishing Voyage as also to hear if the Boat Sail that Perry Lost at Bath with other things is found.

the Hazard I have asked Every Body at the place about and all hands say she never came to the Barr at all.

There is a number of Vessells lost away from Cape hatterass to Cape Lookout Pinkham can tell you all the nuse it would take all day to write it

One thing I have to Say that is the Castle is worth fourty thousand Dollars more than before the Gale, and must Require of you to Send down if to be got the Negroes that run from hear in Irons if to be got.⁷⁴ I want them Very much, and hope you will come Soon.

I am Dear Sir

yours in good haste

JOHN WALLACE

Capt T. Alderson was very good to Tery in the gale at Bath

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Capt. Pinkham

⁷²A storm of hurricane proportions had not been able to destroy the Castle but so many vessels had been wrecked that the men on Shell Castle were busy "wrecking" (salvaging) all that they could.

⁷³The *Beaver* was one of the Blount and Wallace vessels and was commonly employed at Shell Castle.

⁷⁴Wallace's meaning is not clear. He probably wanted iron cuffs to be used on runaway Negroes.

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN 18th August 1795

Dear Sir,

Having made a contract with a Mr. Isaac Sexton for the Pocason land, I had taken up in partnership (a circumstance which I expect you knew before) and being informed that you have Likewise sold him a number of acres in Tirrell I wish to get the favor of you to advise me what bills we had best take from him for his two payments that are to be deferred for 90 & 90 days—He (I think) mentioned a Mr. Taylor of Petersburg & a Mr. Lindsay of Norfolk Virginia, and some others that I dont now recollect. For my own part I should be quite at a loss what bills to prefer and would much rather depend on your Judgement which is assisted by your knowledge of mercantile Character.

The Crops here have been injured to a great degree and in Carteret I am informed more so, and I fear all parts of the State (at least the Seaboard) has been much injured by the Storm. It would appear that an Embargo might be necessary to prevent a famine the ensuing year. I am with Esteem

Yours &c

R. D. SPAIGHT

J. G. Blount Esqr.

[No address]

William Rhodes, Junior, to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK August 27 1795

John G Blount Esquire

Sir,

Inclosed is a price currency which hope will be of service to you—

I have heard the disagreeable news, from your place of a great and general Deluge which has done great damage in your place & that I myself bear a conspicuous proportion, but it is in vain to complain of fate, as it is without controul,—

I have got 6000 Dollars insured upon the Ship at & from Washington it was effected before I got the news, & consequently

must beg of you to advise the Capt to conduct in such a manner that the *Underwriters* may be liable for their proportionable part of the *expences* in getting of her off, in case it amounts to more than an average loss—She is valued in the Policy at 10,000 Dollars, consequently I bear 4/10^{ths} of the expence—I have wrote Mr Olivir to call upon you for advise & assistance & must [2] beg of you to grant such assistance as you see he stands in need of. I expect to be in your place in Oct^o. next, if you have any commands this way untill that time shall be happy in serving you, please direct to me at Providence R. I. as I start for that place today—

The opposers of the *Treaty* have become more contented, as at least have given up the contention in part, since they know the President has given his signature to it. Mr Randolph has resigned, which *conduct* no one pretends to account for here,

The Yellow Feaver is in this city very current 10 to 12 dies of a day, it is principally confined to one particular part of the city, it has been extremely warm, the Thermometer has been up to 96 in the shade, which is higher than ever known here before, & it is said that the extreem heat & dry season is the occasion of the Fever, [2]

I am still in the same situation in point of *health*, as when I left you, please make my compliments to Mrs. *Blount*, Major Blount & his Lady, Mr. Wm Harvey & his Lady &c [3]

[your ob^t.] Servant

W^m. RHODES JUN.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Merchant.

Washington, N. C.

p. Post

John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 2nd, Sept. 1795

Dear Sir

I received your much esteemed favor of the 19th Ult^o. with pain I had hear'd of the great havock done by the Storm on the 2nd and by a letter from Tarborough learn that they have had

an uncommon high fresh,⁷⁵ I am apprehensive for the consequences of these two evils, those that have many outstanding debts and on the collecting payment have to depend for the support of their Credit will I am afraid have a hard time to encounter with, I am obliged for the opinion you give on the Raleigh business and believe that I shall do nothing there this Year—

For some time past the general conversasion has been on the Subject of the treaty & since the President has given his Signature to it, a numer [number] of Advocates have come forward like frogs after a havy [heavy] shower of Rain to support the treaty indeed the Presidents signature has had an wonderful effect it has oppened their eys and now they can discover a number of advantages that will result to us from the Treaty if it should [2] take place, two of the directors of the Bank of the U. S. who were handing about the Petition expressive of Approbation in the presidents conduct I understood came to a respecable man to receive his signature he answer'd them that he would not sign it [and added] *Gentlemen I want not discounts done at present*[.] not much is said on the Subject it is surplanted by one in which most every one is more imedeatily interested, that is the great want of money which is a very general Complaint 2½ pc p month is given by some good house in order to support their Credit, it cannot be owing to any real Scarcity of Cash but rather that an over proportion of Paper has been put in Circulation[.] the Shipment to France of Flour & other provision have been great and to Hambourg of Coffee and Sugar and no return received for them yet, indeed many of the Vessells bound to France have been carried in to Britain than [in preference to France] they have received the promise of payment of their Cargoe with 10% Cert[ain] profit and freight but when that promise will be realized God only knows [2] and then circumstances may tend to injure the best houses in fact confidence in paper of late is much injured as a number of them must pass through the hands of Brokers to raise the money on, the market is at present much overstocked with W. I. [West Indian] Good and infact with allmost every other article of produce, accounts from Europa [3] generally say that their present Crops promise to be great but from the present prospect of money everything at market must fall except the article of Salt which is high and

⁷⁵Flooding from the Tar River.

looking up It is general believed that it will bring $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{3}$ Ds. in a short time, I have made out to procure 2000 br. which no doubt will be advantager, below I give the prise Currant of the day. but cannot say how long they will continue so—I am with my Complement to your family with great Respect

Dear Sir

Your most Obd Servant

JNO. G. L. SCHENCK

Tar 18/ to 20/

Pitch 25/

Turpentine 22/6

S. of Turpentine 4/6

Rosin..... 35/

Corn 4/10

wheat..... 12/6 to 14/6

Flour 12 Dolls. some what owing to the great destruction among the mills by the freshes.

Pork Carl^a. 100/

D^o Burlington 12/

Barr Iron £45 owing to the destruction of the forges by the freshes

Nails Rod — £45 (2)

Rum Winward [From Windward Islands] 7/7/6, Sugar 75/ to 105/,

D^o Jamaica 8/3 Coffee 19^d to 21^d

Salt Lisbon 7/6

D^o. [Ditto] Liverpool 6/6

D^o. T. I. [Turks Island] at present very little at market

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Mr. Easton

J. W. G. Prescott⁷⁶ to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE 3 Sept. 1795

Sir.

I have to inform you that in consequence of Capt. Smiths information respecting Pork at Kingston [Jamaica] of which

⁷⁶Prescott was a ship captain who was often employed by the Blounts.

prospects he will inform you I have begun to discharge our Naval Stores and will take in 22 in [inch] Shingles and proceed immediately for that place. I cannot think we can do better anywhere else, at least no other information is to be got here at present. I am further induced to this Voyage as it will be a moral certainty by going there of my returning in time for your arrangements before you leave town—We shall sail tomorrow early and should anything come in and I can get any acct of a better market from good authority at either St. Domingo St. Bartholomews, Bermuda, or any other place of equal risk I shall be induced to alther the Voyage of which I will [2] let you know immediately.⁷⁷ I have time to add I shall be careful of giving you every intelligence of my proceeding

I Am Sir

Your Very Obdt Sr

J W G PRESCOTT

William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LIVERPOOL Sept 4th, 1795

John Gray & Tho. Blount Esqr.

Gents.

This will be handed to you by Capt Gorham of your Brigg Tuley which I have dispatched with a cargo of Dry goods and Salt agreeable to Bills of lading & Invoice enclos'd amounting to £1327.16.2¼ to your Debit. The Tuley also has on board Messrs Amos Johnston & B Atkinson; Goods agreeable to Bills of lading in Capt Gorhams possession[—]the Freight on which I have thought unnecessary to calculate here as on delivery you will of course measure them & make a charge to the respective gentlemen of 50/ Sterlg p ton of 40 feet. the Tuley has been some days delayed on account of a scarcity of Salt, owing to a Flood in Winter destroying many thousand Tons & Government having lately prohibited the exportation of Rock Salt which has encreased the demand for the common salt and raised the [2] price nearly double, you will find I have been fortunate in procuring half your quantity at the old price & the other half I was favor'd in being able to get it at any rate or in any

⁷⁷Much of the success of a shipment to the West Indies depended on the alertness of the supercargo, who was often the captain also.

reasonable time it is not probable it can long continue so high but it is an advantage the Dealers will take when our article is wanted. I beg leave to enclose for your perusal two letters from Staffordshire to shew I was early in my application for the Earthenware but that time is required to procure them from the Manufacturies, the quantity I was disappointed in I got in Town distinguished in the Invoice by S & H. I have said this much with a wish to assure you that despatch is always my greatest wish and had not the untoward & unexpected circumstances respecting the Salt happened I should have had the satisfaction of sending the Tuley off much sooner, notwithstanding [the Tuley's] going into the graving Dock always occasions some delay. Inclos'd you will receive copy of what I had the pleasure to write to you on the 31st July. You will will receive inclos'd the Sales [3] by the Tuley last Voyage. Neat proceeds to your Credit £225.3.5. It is not in my power now to transmit you the Sales of the present Cargo, having not compleated them, the Tar is sold at 18/ & 18/6 and for the Barrell Staves I have been fortunate in obtaining from £11 to £11,11,—The Insurance on the Vessell Deffered in London where the premium on American Ships was at that time 8 Guineas p Ct some Brokers in Liverpool might do Americans risques at 6, but in general I have found that the premuims in London lower than here, in this transaction I acted for you as I wou'd have done for myself which shall always be my rule of conduct. I am waiting the particulars of the loss on the Ship before I make my claim of that unfortunate loss. the circumstances of which were truly distressing: you'll please to forward the Papers with expedition. Col. Brownes Bill on T. Moss which you remitted me for £60 in to your Credit & I have Mr. Moss's assurance that whatever Bills that Gentleman draws on him will be accepted & there is not a person in Liverpool [4] whose acceptance I wou'd prefer[.] it is undeniably good, I mention this as you expect a prospect of enlarged connexions from that quarter.

I have given the Tuley a New Mainsail & Top Sail as you direct & have been attentive in recommending economy to Capt Gorham & it is but justice to say that he is likely to prove a good Captain. I enclose the Tuleys Disbursements to your Debit £217.1.6½.—The prices Current I annex is the State of this market[,] any alteration in it must be through the change in Politics, I send you some news Papers, they will shew you that a second expedi-

tion has actually sail'd for the Coast of Brittany there are in all 210 Sail of Transports with Five line of Battle Ships in one of which is Monsieur / formerly Count Artois / what friends they may meet with on the Coast of Brittany is uncertain, but without they are join'd by members I fear it wile be another unsuccessful attempt to establish monarchy. A very large reinforcement of Troops are certainly going out to the West Indies it said from 20 to 30,000. These cir [5] circumstances naturally lead [one] to suppose that the War does not yet draw to a conclusion, so far from it that there are many who believe that this proud little Island will endeavor to humble Spain for her conduct in withdrawing from the alliance and giving St. Domingo to the French, but I cannot think a Spanish War at all probable.

I have added most of the Articles desired in yours of the 7th June & you'll find an addition to your first abstract in the order for Callicos and [I] shall hope to have the pleasure of soon hearing that this shipment meets your approbation. I beg leave to recommend you to have your ships here early in the ensuing Spring, as Goods are plentiful & the assortments better—and be pleas'd to give me as much previous intimation of their coming here as possible.

Accept the united thanks of Mrs. Lake & myself for the Hams which prov'd really fine, & for the intended pleasure that the Birds would have afforded had they lived. [6]

Capt. Gorham has in charge a Cheshire and Berkley Hundred Cheese which I hope may get safe to hand. I am with sentiments of esteem and respect

Gent.

Your most obed Servt.

WM CHAS LAKE

Tar18/ to 19/ D B in demand

Pitch..... 9/ to 10/—Dull

Turpentine 15/6 to 16/ Dull

Pipe Staves £22 to £24

Hh^d [ditto, sic] £19 to £20.

Bbl [Ditto, sic] £11 to £11.10), remarkable good Fishery makes them in present demand.

Wheat 16/ to 16/6 has been as high as 21/ but expected to be down soon to 10/6

Flour in proportion.

Indian Corn—9/ to 10/6 expected lower, the poor have begun to use it as a cheap Bread it may be an object to send to this Country.

Rice 4/ p cwt in demand

Beex Wax £10 to £12 in demand & recommended to send here.

Honey is too thin & not saleable [7] (4)

I understand you are building a New Ship. I beg leave to suggest the necessity of giving me sufficient notice of the sail Canvas you wile want that the necessary application may be made to the Privy Council for permission to ship it.

The Debenture of the Printed Goods I shall credit you for when received.

Addressed: John Gray & Tho. Blount Esqrs.

Washington

North Carolina

c/o Tuley

J. F. Grimké⁷⁸ to John Gray Blount

CHARLESTON September 5th, 1795

Dear Sir.

Altho' I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with you I beg leave to address the following lines to you upon a subject in which I find not only my Interest much concern'd but in my opinion tho Character and reputation of your State—you can be no stranger to the resolution of your Legislature directing the Catawba company to appear before their tribunal at your next Session & shew cause why tho charter granted them some years ago should not be repealed—Sensible as I am that I may be intruding upon your time I do not however hesitate to take the liberty, as I have been informed that you take pleasure in seeing justice done to individuals & that you are too good a republican to divest any body of men of their property but upon the justest grounds—I feel therefore a confidence in your attention to the enclosed representation of facts which will be found a complete refutation of the several charges which have been made against that Company—

⁷⁸Judge Grimké was the father of Sarah and Angelina Grimké who were members of the early anti-slavery groups when slavery became an issue between the North and South in the ante-bellum period of American history.

It has been objected that nothing has been done of valuable effect [al]tho the Charter has been granted to the company for several years, I reply that the Company's expenditures on that navigation has amounted to above £5000 Sterlg which is a decisive proof that the company were correct [behaved properly] in that business otherwise they never would have loaded themselves with an expence not only but unnecessary unless they meant to proceed in their exertions: to be sure it happened unfortunately that the former proprietors were obliged to discontinue their efforts [2] not being any longer able to support a further expence, nor even to pay their debts which had accumulated beyond their ability—In this situation they offered to dispose of their rights in the company, which being warranted to them by the several acts of the Legislature of the two States, induced a number of Citizens of the States of So. Carolina to become the purchases & who are now the holders of that property —The present proprietors did not become possessive of the Chartered Rights of the Company (2) until the work had been interrupted for 2 or 3 years, the works of which had suffered much injury from that intermission: they found likewise an accumulation of debt bearing hard upon the Citizens of the Country on acct. of their non payment and a total loss of credit resulting their from. their first object therefor was to pay their compatriots who had made advances for their workmen in labour or provisions, attaining thereby a double advantage. that of exonerating themselves from heavy debt and 2d^{ly}. that of the establishment of their Credit. for this purpose they have been making half yearly payments with which they have at last extinguished their Debts—

It has also been urged against the Company as a charge of a high nature that a very considerable time has intervened since the work has been intermitted That there does not appear any symptoms of a desire in the Company to renew their efforts—From what has been advanced above I hope you will be satisfied that there has been no neglect in the present propititors, but that on the contrary very considerable exertions have been made to pay off the debts & renovate the credit of the Company, [3] which as honest Citizens they conceived they were bound in duty to do & as to the latter part of the charge I am happy to give you the assurance that Colonel Dens is now at work upon the

River and will continue to do so unremittenly every Summer until the navigation is completed as far as it is practicable—

There is another charge & which were it true time would have considerable weight in the minds of all disinterested men: I mean a monopoly of the Charters by the Citizens of the State of South Carolina—But this is so far from being the fact that there are now 150 shares vacant which your Citizens are invited to fill & which as President of the Company I have been directed to offer to our North Carolina Bretheren in the 1st instance, as we wish them to be united with us in this great work, it being more their Interest to see the work compleated than that of the Citizens of any of the other States, and as we are convinced if your inhabitants become subscribers that they will be led then to not only by their private Interest, but also by a patriotic wish to encourage & expedite works so beneficial to the community at large of their own State as this Navigation wile undoubtedly prove—I can hope therefore for your favorable opinions of the exertion of the present proprietors, and that you wile do them the justice of making the contents of this letter as public as possible, for the purpose of removing any misrepresentations which may have been made upon this subject and which perhaps may have (tho not intentionally) injured their Company in the opinion of the respectable part of your community—As I intended [4] When I shall have compleated my Circuit in South Carolina to repair to Raleigh in obedience to the Resolution of your house, I hope that nothing will be enterprised against our Rights until I shale have had an opportunity of being heard before so respectable a tribunae—Relying confidently on your generous endeavours in your house to advocate this just and legal principle “no condemnation without a hearing”, I subscribe myself

Dear Sir your most Ob' &

Very hum. Ser.

J. F. GRIMKE

September 5th 1795

Any letter directed to Thomas Davis Esqr in Wilmington of your State will be safely forwarded to me.

John Gray Blount Esqr.

[No address]

*George Ogg to John Gray Blount
With a Marginal Note*

TARBOROUGH Sept 7th., 1795

Dear Sir

I arrived here a few days since much fatigued from the excessive badness of the roads, one universal deluge prevails thro the contents. which added to the ratifications of of John Jays Damn'd Treaty will I fear produce famine, anarchy and confusion

My Jaunt to Phillad^a has been rather unpleasant altho I confess I am not much disapointed, I have been under the necessity of Commencing an action in chancery against Allison, in order to have the contract which he made with Judge Wilson & Robert Morris brought to view—Judge Wilson was very polite to men and told me after showing him the contracts and the manner in which they were Perverted that he had no objection to show[ing] his contract if Allison was willing. to this he [Allison] replyd that he did not conceive himself bound to show the [2] the contract. Saying that he had bought the property of the parties, to which I was obliged to give a disagreeable reply which was that he told a falshood and at the same time neglected two grand points, which were to take up the Contracts & show Rects for the payment.—Such a want of Delicacy & such a perversion of common Honesty I never before met with & I trust I never shall again—He however condescended to write me a note after the suit was commenc'd Saying that he would settle, but this came too late without I could have seen the contracts. because I was not Prepaired to receive his word for oneything[.] add to this consideration I have good authority for believing that he has sold a large proportion of our lands for 30 Cents.—I have however & purely to prevent an investigation of a subject wherein you are to be named, left a Power of Atty. with a friend of mine which I have shewn to our friend Colo [Abishai] Thomas in order to bring the matter to a settlement and I am ashured if I can Judge of any plain case that it will be found worded in such terms as no Honest man will object to.—

I am D Sir

With my usual respect & Esteem yr Humble Servt

GEORGE OGG

[Marginal Note]

I wish too myself the pliasure of seeing you[.]
I could tell you more things than a letter can
or ought to hold. but that pleasure is denied
me & will [be] untill the November Races⁷⁹—
Tarboro 7th Sept^r. 1795

Addressed: M^r. John Gray Blount
Merchant in
Washington

Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount

PUNGO Septm 8 1795

Dear Sir

I have got all the shipe timber but Exsept the top timbers and
[have it] in the water[.] Should have had it all in the yard before
this had it bin that I could cept [kept] well[.] I have bin down
all most six weeks and still continue not abel to walk a step and
god noes when it will be otherweys I thought of beginning to
work on the ship by the midel of this month but shall begin as
soon as I git about—pleas to send down pitch Iron as may be
wanted first by the first good passage I dont no wht day I may
want it—pleas to send me by Capt. Samuel Smith three or for
Hundred weight of Dutch nales as I had the other day—one
barrel Sugar and 20 or 30 lb of Coffee and 20 lb 2½ Inch rope[.]
if Capt Smith stays long enuf pleas to have a crobar maid and
sent it will do for the ship⁸⁰—

I am Sr your most Obd St
HENRY TULEY

[No address]

⁷⁹Org was interested in horse racing. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 65n. 43.

⁸⁰Tuley was building a vessel for the Blounts. William Charles Lake to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Liverpool, September 4, 1795, page 583, above.

Robert Lanier to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON September 12, 1795

Mr Blount Sir

I Desire you wood Give Your Negroes⁸¹ their orders To keep away from Mothers as I will Not alow Such gangs of them to flock there as there is a Dam Bad gang there no [now] and Lett what will Be amiss they will Lay it to yours and the Best way will Be to keep them away as I Raly [really, sic] will flog Every-one I can find there Without a Lawfull pass from you Sir[.] I will not Doe it out of any anemosity to you I will Serve Every Mans Negroes the Same as I Doe yours Sir[.] Mack Daniel threttens Me Very Much with your Ruining me When you Gitt your Mills up[.] Sir if you think three Dollars an acre is to Deer, for my Land I will Leave it to any Two Men to price it and you May Choose the Men your Self and What Ever they Vallue it at I will Take Sir you Told me you Did not want it But I am Certin if you will Come up, and Take a View of the Land and See the Land you will of Corse Drawn Pity will Move you to Buy it if Nothing Els[.] the land is Worth more to you than any other Man Living Because it Lies at the Very Spot to Be Ser-visible to the Mill[.] Sir if we cannot trade I raly Will Spend all the high Land to Gitt paid for Swamp[.] Sir I Shall Be Down in a few Days and you Can Consider the Matter in a few Days and you Can Consider the Matter While ther and Lett me no What I May Depend on[.] Sir I Wood not Sell the Land on any Terms if it was not for the Mils I Should have Come Down this Day to have seen you But Cant Leave Home as My family is poorly I am

your H S [Honorable Servant]

R LANIER

September 12th 1795

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

⁸¹John Gray Blount owned a large number of slaves. In times when there was a slack season in work, they were likely to be troublesome.

Richard Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount

KINGSTON JAMAICA Sept 13th, 1795

Mess. John Gray & Tho^s Blunt

Gentlemen

Capt Smith in your Brigg-Russell, arrived here from Cape Nichola Mole, this day.—forthnight, & delivered me your esteemed favor of 20th June last, together with that part of his Cargo he could not sell at the Cape. Finding the Brig had been longer out than might have been expected, I have used every means to dispatch her from here & being ready for Sea, I have the pleasure of inclosing Acct of Sales of w^h. [which] Capt. Smith landed—the Peas & Pork were nearly spoiled, the former moldy & rotten & the cotton dry & decceying fast: had they been of a good Quality, I cou'd readily have procurred for former 10/p Bush. & for the latter £10 p. Barrele as they were, I doubt not your being satisfied with the sale.—you will receive likewise Invoice & Bill of lading for the Cargo of sugar purchased agreeably to your Instructions—& your acc^t. currt. annexed thereto, is Balanced by a Smale Draft, I have given on you, for 180 3/4 Dollars. drawn at 5 Days Sight in fav^o. of Mr. Francis Lawthrop, w^h. I make no doubt will meet due Honor.

Capt Smith has met with a few passsegers, but no Freight was to be procured for any part of the Continent (2) You will find four different Qualities of Sugar, of the low-priced I was afraid to ship much, as I had not full instructions on this Head, whenever you wish to Speculate in produce from hence I shou'd be happy to receive particular instructions as to the Quality, whether fi[r]st 2^d. 3^d or last class.—Sugar differs so much, & so widely in the price, that you must see the necessity of the observation.—I hope Capt John Smith arrived after a Quick passage, he will inform you, that in presenting my Bill in protest, I paid him £479.9.5. this Money as at such w^t which he purchased Sugar.

I shale be always happy to give dispatch to any Business you put into my hands as I have it fully in my power so to do; I would engage to Ship the proceeds (2) of any Cargo you may

Consign me, *the Day after* it is landed, in *Dollars*, or *produce*, as you may direct, whether sold or not.—

I enclose a price cur^t.—& remain most respectfully

Gentlemen—

Your mo: obed. Hble Serv.

R. BLAKE

Bill Jam^a. curr^y.—£388.8—

Int from date. 6/pc^t. 58.17.8

Re exchge 8/pc^t. 31. 1.5

Charges 1. 2.4

£479. 9.5

paid John Smith

Washington,
N. Carolina

[No Address]

*William Blount to John Gray Blount
with a Postscript by Thomas Blount*

KNOXVILLE Sept 16th 1795

M^r. Jhn. Sommerville who will write you respecting Supplies of Rum Sugar &c and Nails (probably) means to open a large dry good store at Raleigh in the month of November with a Capital of nearly 30,000 dollars—you may depend on punctual payments,—By my advice he will depend upon you for such articles as he will apply to you for altogether and apply to no other Person so long as you will supply him I have also assured him you will supply him on as good Terms as any other Person will,⁸² I am

Your ob^d Servent

Wm BLOUNT

John Summerville will carry on his Business under the Firm of John Summerville & Co.

⁸²See William Blount to John Gray Blount, Knoxville, September 22, 1795, page 595, below, and John Summerville to John Gray Blount, September 30, 1795, page 597, below.

[2] I am well & intend to leave this on Sunday or Monday next—My route will be through Buncombe County—by the 10th October you may expect me at Tarborough

THO BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

No. Carolina.

Mr Summerville.

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE September 22nd 1795

Dear Sir:

Since I wrote you last, I have written to General Robertson to make inquiry respecting Messrs Johnston's and Atkinson's land Warrants and inform me of the result—his answer I have not yet received—We learn from North Carolinas South Carolina and Georgia that great numbers of people will come to this Country in the course of the present fall—the Sheriffs of the different Counties in this Territory are required by law of the last Assembly to take the enumeration to commence on the 15th of the present month and make returns on the last of November—the general opinion here is that our numbers will entitle us to a representation in Congress after becoming a seperate State.⁸³—

A party of Chickasaws left this yesterday for their Nation, they have been on a visit to the President of the United States [2] and to solicit aid of him against the Creeks with whom they are at Wars—aid they did not obtain—Information from the Creek Nation as late as the 15th Instant says that on the 13th of this month an army of Creeks were to rendezvous in the woods between the two Nations and their intention was to invade the Chickasaw Country—feint hopes are entertained by our informant that some of their leaders will induce the greater part if not all to desist and return home—I wish it may be the case—for however just it may be that the Creeks should have war declared against them, the Chickasaws are too weak to chastise them in a proper manner.—

⁸³Blount was busy with the preparations for taking the census and arranging for the Territory to be made into a state.

We have had an entire peace on the frontiers this summer, and from the latest information from the Creeks and Cherokees we have reason to hope for a continuation of it—[3]

You will please shew this letter to my brother Reading and it will serve as a letter to you both.—Please present my compliments to my sisters and families—I am with great regard.

Your obedient Servant

WILLIE BLOUNT

John Gray Blount esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Washington

North Carolina

Mr Thos Blount

William Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE Sept 22^d, 1795

Dear Sirs

I had the Pleasure to receive your Letter by my Brother Thomas but not one since though a Post passes from your door to mine.—

I have purchased out General Robertson Share of the Military Lands at $\frac{1}{4}$ of a dollar per Acre to be paid in two years without Interest—I mention this that you may sell them if you chose so to do.—I have not yet been able to purchase the Donelson's share of the Duck River Tract of Land (no Part belongs to Stockly) but I believe I shall get it at $\frac{1}{5}$ of a dollar per acre or perhaps at a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a dollar—Col. Billy Donelson has promised to give me an answer on his return from Richmond.

I fear we shall have a dispute with Col. Elijah Robertson in the Division with him[,] owing as I say to his having never caused the Grants to issue, he says he had only to survey [2] & return the works & that it was our Bussins [business, sic] to obtain the Grants[.] The Facts are I believe he never returned the works & that we have laid the Warrants on other lands or Sold them—He will be at the Secretary's office during the session [of the Assembly] and I would suppose it prudent to keep him in Ignorance as to the manner our Warrants are disposed of to contend that he never returned the works to the office to which

Purposes it may be necessary to keep the Secretary in your favor Herewith you will receive some deeds with Notes in Pencil. to which you can attend & rub them out—

The Deed from Col. Leech to you will be proved recorded & forwarded to you by the first Conveyance.

John Summerville who is to do business under the Firm of "John Summerville & Co" is employed by myself & Stockly Donlson at 500 dollars per annum & the Capital is ours raised by Donelson by the sale of lands at $1/3$ of a dollar per acre, the lands [3] mostly lying out of the Bounds to to which the Indians Claim is extinguished—The Firm under which the Business is done will inform you that I do not wish my Name to appear—The Objects is to purchase Military & other Lands which I suppose can be purchased cheaper at Raleigh than at any other place.—The News & Politiks in this Country I refer you to Tom[,] whose visit has given me great happiness and who I find a much improved Poletician & Legislator.—Tom advises me to give you my opinion as to Shell Castle Island which I suppose of but very little Consequence to you as you must better understand the Subject—It is that you have the Island on Rocks laid out into a Town of which have a handsome & accurate Draft made shewing the Rocks & depth of water upon such Parts of each lot as shall be included in your Town with a true description of its Situation as it respects the the Barr [4] the Swash &c and then offer a Part of the lots say about $3/4$ of them for sale at Philadelphia or at some other monyed Place to large capitalists meaning such men as are able to expend large sums upon Improvements—I am sure the advantages of Shell Castle need only to be fairly stated to render it an object of attention to moneyed men, land or rock at that place must be more valuable than an equal quantity of land in Philadelphia upon the Delawar Side

Its a spot upon which a Vessell might be built.—But having heard of a damnable Storm I fear the Castle is blown away and if it should even that in my opinion will not prove that buildings can not be erected that will stand all Storms that can come.—A sale of a Part will enable you to improve the other if you are not so already, I mean upon an extensive Scale.—

W^m. BLOUNT

[No Address]

Gabriel Ragsdale to John Gray Blount

BUNCOMBE [COUNTY] September 27th 1795

Sir

Not Being certin of a Safe arrival of my Letters to you, I have thought it Best to write By Evry prospect of a Safe Convoy—

I find by the last papers from Hallifax in the Sceddule of personsons Elected your name inserted which I was Happy to see, my frind Colo [Robert, *sic*] Love is likewise Elected hear in the Senate and notwithstanding the Combined power of my Enemies and the pleasing Topick of Speculation with Lexen-eajers, [*sic*] [electioneers, *sic*]. I am Elected [representative] by a majority of 55 Votes. I have nearly Got our Surveys Completed and should not the tresurors rect [receipts] come forward By the Last week of next month It will Be Convenient for me to Bring the Warrents to Raleigh—As I shall have to Set out from home at Last [least] ten days previous to the first Monday of November—tho the matter Rests With you, and I shall Bring down the field note if I should not Bring the Worrents as there is not Opertunity of having the plats and draughts Completed hear without Givin 3 prices to have it done.

I am

with due respet yours

G RAGSDALE

John G Blount Esqr—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Washington

N Carolina

Mr. Obryan

John Summerville & Co. to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH September 30th, 1795

Sir

Inclosed you have a letter from your Brother Governor Blount mentioning our intentions of cummmencing business in the merchantile line in this place & that we wished to receive our supplies of West India produce from you, on this head we will deline saying anything more untill our Mr. Summerville has the pleasure of seeing you at the assembly.—

We are about building at the expense of your Brother Col^o Thomas Blount, on his lot Number one hundred & sixty four, who directed us to request you would supply us with such nails as will be necessary to compleat the building, on his account—therefore we will thank you to forward as soon as possible, seven thousand twenty penny nails or brads, three thousand ten penny nails & twelve thousand six penny Nails, addressed to the care of Mr. Peter Casso in this place.—

We are

Your Most ob Servants

JOHN SUMMERVILLE & Co

Raleigh

October 1s 1795

Addressed: Mr John G Blount
Merchant
Washington

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a. October 1st 1795

Dear Sir

In answer to your several letters of the 2nd 15th & 16th Sept last The first contains the expectation of numbers around you waiting as it were the moving of the Water, which appears at present very low perhaps never more so, everything here is distress in miniature, its effects even extends to the faces of many Merchants, how then can be the Situation of the land jobbers, a race which are hunted down here by the Banks—I would not complain with all my trouble had you not suggested in your vent that I could not be much distressed or I would write more, the very reverse is my case—were all the Devils in hell, let loose against me, I could not be more harrassed, their torments would be but very small compared with these demned Rascals here, but my good friend, I foresaw it all and will bear with it until I obtain if possible the grand Object, altho I must confess I never before knew difficulty—but how idle it is in man to complain—

I think you have ventured far with the Treasurer⁸⁴ and he will go farther with you if he accepts and lest he should do it I have concluded as you advise and taken the debt without the daughter for the present and as I have Separated the bargain I am obliged to pay the Amount of them at sixteen shillings in the pound with Interest at six and nine Months, and bind the House of J G & T B. [John Gray & Thomas Blount] with myself for the payment and J. W. [James Wilson] and myself in 30,000 \$. [2] as a collateral security for the payment—this is the consequence of Separating grand objects and not making them go hand in hand⁸⁵—but here rests my comfort provided I can only pay this debt before it is due, it will lessen the difficulties very much and perhaps add the 100,000 pounds to the Credit side of the leaf. The Works of Providence are very wonderful and this very thing however hard it may now appear will probably be the very effecting the other—the amt. of the debt is £8030,10.5. I thought for sometime to have sent it to the Treasurer and am yet in doubts.—By next Post I will endeavour to send you 40,000 pounds more, and have some expectations that I shall get 10^m pounds more from New York if so it will also go if not time enough for the post by Express—you have given me liberty to use the Tuly [Tuley] & Russel but the mere writing wont do a proper power in wanting for such purpose from you and Col^o B. [Thomas Blount] I believe every resource is necessary and ought to be brought into action (of this however I leave you to judge) this business will I hope repay you well and replace the Vessels in a short time.⁸⁶

The land sold Seaton is not for the Judge—loose no time in pursuing him and get the bills and forward and for Gods Sake get the money part for your Country which with the Certificate mentioned, if I get them, will I hope let you be easy for a while which I really wish as I can bear the burden better than you can [3]

You say urge W. B. [William Blount] about the detention there, as you have done—He says military lands sell at 1/3 of a dollar Cash down—I fear he has not said all—Donellson Pd to John Love of Alexandria for bills on Sam Love and Josiah

⁸⁴John Haywood, who was said to have been too lenient with his friends. William K. Boyd, *History of North Carolina; The Federal Period* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), 4, 11.

⁸⁵Allison regretted the necessity of selling part of his lands to meet current expenses. He had hoped to sell in one big body.

⁸⁶He apparently considered raising money on the *Tuley* and the *Russell*, Blount vessels.

Watson of that City at 60 Days which were protested the 8th Ultio for non acceptance, such are the Cash sales—Gen^l. Smith has 60^m acres of the Green Swamp He will sell for 6 cents per acre on a credit you must buy them thro some person to whom the bills will be made, then write me that you have bought them from that person for one dollar per acre, for me if I want them) in good negotiable notes payable at 6, 9, 12 & 15 Mo. that that is the lowest price and an Answer with the notes if I accept must come by next post otherwise the party will sell to land jobbers in North Carolina, who wish much to purchase the Brunswick Swamp lands. you understand me—the consideration money in the deed to me must be one dollar per acre.⁸⁷—I have sundry objects in View in this and it must be done—Money you say must be had, I am at a loss to contrive how to do it, but will do my best If I had no more, than what you now want to get, it might probably be done but much more is wanting, for you know all has been done without funds as yet, and the paper I got would raise none, all has been done I do not know how unless with trouble and difficulty and sacrifices which go hard with me but I cant help them Gen^l Smiths must be attended to without delay as people here are after it and in a few days it will be lost as the Hollishelter of Gerards for which I would have got half a dollar at least in short payments—I shall have much difficulty with Mr. Wheaton and probably loose all unless I go to quarreling which I wont do for the land.—Now come on Ogg.— is the Russel safe; I hope so, or I am out of your books—but I saved on the Bell and her Cargo. this will help to balance the Account—any word from the Tuly when the Brigs arrive send them to me for sale or Charter—

I am Dr Sir

Your Obd Servant

DAVID ALLISON

P. S. I send you the Certificates.

John G. Blount Esqr.

Rozin	40/ pr B ^l .	Sugar	75 a 90
Turpentine	25/	Rum	[]
Tar	20/.	Jaimaca	8/ []
Pitch	22/6	Windward	7 a 7/6

[No Address]

⁸⁷The margin of profit shown here explains the frantic efforts of the land dealers to make sales.

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH October 11th 1795

Mr. John G Blount

Dear Sir by Mr Spell I send down 87 bbs Tar & 96 bbs Turpentine which please to Cooper⁸⁸ if wanting[.] should it be Asked for to sell it must not be sold under 14/ for the former & 22/6 for the latter I should be glad [to] hear if you know of any chance to Ship anything from Washington to Europe this fall as I should be glad to Ship 1000 bbs—

Should Warren Ashley have sent me any salt to Washington please to order Mr Spell to bring it up—

I am Dear Sir with much
regard Your Most obt

BEN ATKINSON

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

By Mr Spell

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARB^o. 19 Oct. 1795

Dear Sir,

The reason you give for thinking I have returned too soon from the Westward⁸⁹ makes me think it my duty to myself to decline coming at this time. I proposed to Washington, as this place is as healthy as I have ever known it at this season of the year & I have no particular Business here—I will however meet you at Greeneville on Monday next sickness or other unavoidable accidents excepted.

I need not say how much I lament the death of our worthy friend Nathan Keais,⁹⁰ it is enough to say that I am anxious that Billy should be his Successor in office & that I will use every means in my power to ensure that he shall be

⁸⁸It was not unusual for the Blounts to have coopering done for goods sent them for shipment.

⁸⁹Thomas Blount had just returned from visiting William Blount in Knoxville.

⁹⁰Nathan Keais had served for a number of years as customs officer at Port Bath. See Letters for 1790, page 10n. 30, above.

The person to whom it is proper to recommend him is Tench Cox, Commissioner of the Revenue, & to him I shall write in the strongest terms of recommendation by the next post.—I make no doubt but my recommendation will procure him the office, as Mr. Cox has on all occasions treated my recommendations with very high respect yet I feel a wish that you should also write him [2] on the subject as you can speak more particularly than I can of his merit—

Under all the disappointments you have mentioned I know you must feel inexpressible anxiety especially as your demand for money will in a short time be even more pressing than now, but if D. A. [David Allison] is not completely broke down by his reliance on J. W. [James Wilson] I hope & trust he will relieve you. By saying that your want will be more pressing I mean only to refer to the situation of the Buncombe Business which W. Ragsdale, at whose House I was on the 1st Ins. told me would require money immediately as the works would all be ready to return at the meeting of the Assembly provided he could be furnished with the Treasurers Receipts to enable him to obtain the Warrants—He told me at the time he mentioned this that he had three days before wrote you fully & that if he heard from you effectually he should bring all the work down to the office himself otherwise he should not & there would be danger of loss—

all well & send Comp. &c.

Yours Ser &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Tarb^o. 19th Octo Free

Addressed: John Gray Blount Es^a.

Washington

Post

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a October 23^d 1795

D^r Sir

I received your letter of the 7th Instant giving information that Capt. J Smith had sailed for this place from Washington the last news I have heard of him—As Insurer for the Vessell

I begin to fear [that it is lost], I have not heard of her since her being among the Islands, I hope however she is safe and will bring some speedy relief, for be assured it is much wanting here and equally so with you, the Judge [Wilson] begins to urge for his Titles, and they cant be had, I know, without money, to effect this I am doing every thing in my power (altho you may think otherwise) and have sent by last post Certificate to amount of £8030.10.5 principal & Interest and now send you about £————* and hope by next and perhaps even tomorrow morning to send you £8000 more which I hope will be near enough to finish the business, but least [lest] it should not I have taken measures for £10,000 more—You also call for 15000^m to raise this I am planning such steps as appear most likely to effect it and will send you as soon as I can (altho it reduces me even to the Goal [gaol] door) for I find I can bear better [2] than any of friends, and am willing to do it provided I could *relieve you* I have not received Succour from the Westward in this all my hopes are blasted, I do not complain [I mention] only to shew you how I am embarassed—they do not even stop at this, Bills are now drawn on me to amount of about 5000. a good part at 30 Days, I have accepted them but how they are to be paid God only knows, I am sure I do not. I sometimes reflect and when in that mood I am inclined to charge Providence with more severity towards me than others. I wrote you by last post about Gen Smiths Greenswamp land and that it must be had by some person not yourself—I need urge no more than say I am obliged to have it, it can be had for six cents an Acre while it remains in N^o Carolina, if it comes here, it will be as Gerards and Carraways for which I have been obliged to give half a dollar when it could have been had on our own terms at Tarboro.—Ogg I know will do every injury he can to prevent my closing the Contract with the Judge but if those swamps are Secured all is Safe.—What can you have done with Seaton,⁹¹ I counted on your getting from him 10^m d^{ol}. Cash and that the bills would have answered other purposes, I hope you have seen him and effected the business agreeable to Contract—The Judge declares he does not know the man and I cant learn who has ordered him to buy.

* Left blank in manuscript.

⁹¹Seaton has not been clearly identified. It is possible that the reference is to William W. Seaton, a member of a prominent family of Virginia (*Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI [1935], 541), and a noted journalist.

The latest Accounts from Liverpool advertise that the Tooley is for freight or Charter to any port in the U. S. when She Arrives do send her to Market, every aid will be wanting this Spring, if we can only hold out to harvest, I will ensure us afterwards a perfect quiet.

I am Dr Sir

Your obt Servt

DAVID ALLISON

M. Schenck sails tomorrow with Mr. Rhodes, Ross, Donelson and Wright for Washington—

*Free to Allison
under two Ounces*

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
No. Carolina

To be forwarded with haste
by Col^o T. Blounts

PHIL^a October 1st 1795

[Inclosure]

David Allison Esqr

Recd of Joseph Ball the following Certificate Debt of North Carolina, viz,

John Hopkins bearing Interest) £
from 1st Aug 1783) 108.3.10

Arrington Sheppard	24- 7- 6	John Anderson	11- 2-
John Cox	3-14- 6	John Reess	18- 7- 9
John Foohs	35- 9-10	John Song	18- 7- 9
James Brabble	95- 3- 3	Gabriel Ferrell	17-19-
Sears Sodge	20- 1- 2	Henry Gray	37- 4- 6
Thomas Castilloe	9- 7- 4	John Vichory	18-12- 2
Benjamin Boyd	14- 7-10	James Cronnester	17-19-
John Hall	17-17- 6	Ezekiel Griffin	19- 6- 9
Soven Phillips	10-19-	Joseph Sawyer	17- 6- 2
William Boyd	6-11- 5	Richmond Terrell	98- 6 11
Ismall Roberts	24- 1- 9	Peter Melone	29- 8- 9
Stewart Hambleton	11- 1- 2	John Portress	25-11- 4
William Capps	122-10- 5	John Poulson	44-18-10
Issac Waters	12- 3- 4	Willie Wiggins	41- 7-11
Adam Turner	20-13- 6	John Warner	37- 6- 3

Solomon Northern	17-10- 4	William Ryles)	
Edward Harris	34- 9- 1	bearing Inst.)	
Carried over	1041-78- 2	from the 1st)	17-10- 4
Amt. Brot.		August 1783)	
forward	£ 1041-18- 9	John Parry	12- 1- 4
William Carroll)		James Fiske	18- 8-
bearing Int.)		William M Daniel	20- 2- 8
from the 1st)	19-17- 2	John Harris	20- 2- 8
August 1783)		John Howard	20- 2- 8
Joseph Seeley	19-17- 2	Matthias Goodridge	41- 2- 4
Thomas Morris	19-17- 2	George Williams	62- 3- 6
Arthur Graham	19-17- 2	Thomas King	19- 1- 3
Mosses Vintors	70-10-	John Vance	70- 5-
Thomas Brinkley	5- 7- 5	Daniel Weaver	14- 5- 3
William Douglass	62-19- 9	Miles Gordon	19-17- 2
Ditto	80-10- 6	Ranny Oliver	19-17- 2
Mason Broom	34-17-	Francis Bennett	20- 2- 8
James Anderson	29-10- 3	Andrew Simpion	97- 5- 7
Robert Walpin	19- 1- 3	John Blanchard	115-13- 6
Timothy Rich	42-19- 5	Jacob Bennett	108-17-
Matthias Morgan	19-17- 2	James Brown	9- 7- 6
Abraham Harrold	19-17- 2	Hodges Bensham	19-17- 9
Norris Barker	106-12- 5	Benjamin Dean	102- 4- 7
John Harvey	60- 8- 7	Lemuel Edwards	1- 6- 2
Frederick Suey	123-10-	Robert Ferreebee	17-14-
Dempsey Johnson	19- 1- 3	John Gilbert	22-10-
William McKenney	55- 1-	Lemuel Golstead	29- 4- 6
Patrick Rogers	92-14-10	William Spain	110- 8- 8
Charles Short	75- 3- 6	Levi Sanderlain	56- 2- 6
Willis Span	44- 8- 6	Willoughby Thompson ..	10- 8- 7
Isaac Gumbs	19- 1- 3	Richard Mohanes	7-12-
James Parks	19-13-10	Micajah Pettaway	14- 4- 8
Isaiah Vick	77-13- 8	Peter Poyner	58-19- 2
Charles Gibson	19- 1- 3	William Johnston	44- 2- 6
William Scott	61- 3- 2	John Luffman	58-18- 9
James Spann	47-14- 6	Dempsey Marlow	75- 2- 5
Richard Lewis	22-18- 8	Edward Thompson	11-19- 6
Henry Cooper	96- 9- 6	Moses Venters	7-17- 8
Noland Mabry	27- 4-10	Thomas Woodley	20-17- 8
Hardy Ridley	8-14- 1	Carried over	£ 3913.11.11
Caleb Woodward	4-14- 1	Amt brought over	£ 3913-11-11
Saul Scott	1- 4- 6	Whitaker Shadforth Inst.)	
George Spivey	19-17- 2	from the 1 Augt 1783)	12-17-
Edward Fossett	28- 7-11	Charles Murray	39- 2- 3
Carried Forward....	2537-15- 3	William Warren	17-18- 6
Amt Brought forward	£ 2537-15-3	Thomas Wigley	79- 1- 5

Thomas Mosely	16- 5- 8	Thomas Summerlin Int)	
Shedmore Squires	17-19-	from 1st January 1790)	62- 2- 8
William Gamewell	78- 2-10	William Blount	85-14- 4
Adam Hart	98- 5-11	Ditto	97- 3-
Peter Grover	10-10- 8	Thomas Chambers	4- 3- 4
Archibald Murfree	-19-	Moses Oldham	65-14-
Miles Privett	19-17- 5	William Murray	51-
Jehu Lenton	19- 1- 7	Reuben Ransom	44- 2- 8
Principal	£ 4323- 3- 4	Principal	£ 410-
Int to this Sale 12		Int. to this Sale, 5	
years 2 Mo.	3155-18- 1	years 9 Mos	141- 9-
	7479- 1- 5		551- 9-
			7479- 1- 5
		Amt.	£ 8030-10- 5

This is a duplicate of the Certificates sent you last post lest they should have miscarried.

D ALLISON

John Hall to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 24th October 1795

D Sir—

I have waited for Some time impatiently to receive the remainder of the Grants, & at the Same time to receive your acct for the balance due on the whole of the Survey.

I have forwarded to Europe descriptions of the land & flatter myself shortly to have favourable advice from that quarter as soon as this information may arrive you shall be immediately acquainted with the Event—I wish to have the grants ready & hope by the Earliest opportunity [2] they will be forwarded.

I wish you would attend to the taxes not only on ours but on those sold to M[orris] & Nicholson

The land business is entirely at an End in this City owing to the abuses imposed on the Citizens of this place—the best

Vouchers & most indisputable guarrantors will Scarcely include a purchaser to embark

I will thank you for an answer by the return of post

I am Sir

Yrs Mo- Obdt

J HALL

Free

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington
N^o. Carolina

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH October 30th.4.OClock.Friday 1795

Dear John/

I have not been able to Adjust all my Business untill within an Hour. owing to the Treasurers not geting here before Last Evening & not able to do business untill abt 12 OClock. I have Paid of [off] in full for Amos Johnson £428.17.1 for which I hold Rec^{ts}. from him and Adjusted all my Other business with him & Comptroler for all rents &c forward you &c

I have Also given him a Compleat Statement of the Business done with him the 23rd June 1794. It explains all things to you and him as fair [far] as Come within my Province & Shews the Ballance due you & subject to your Disposition the 23rd June 1794 and what Certificates will lay unappropriated to make that Ballance in his hands—

Inclosed is M^r. Pugh Williams's obligation for his Lands in Polks hands which I leave as Phaps [perhaps] you may see Polk before my Return & may need the same. Also is Inclosed the Letter of Jn^o Willis for your Inspection. he I expect may ask you if you see it etc. If I see him I shall say I Inclosed it to you. but have not yr Opinion &c this letter I shall Call for again &c. I expect to be gone for Six Days tho my stay will be as short as possable. Mind I am to Lodge with you therefore take in no

one Else In Case of Accidents [2] I* you'l find in Jesse Speights hands £950 in Money & the Certificates not marked of in the List hereunder Cover I am

Yours Etc

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
at Raleigh

P the hands of)

Mr. Casso)

William Falkener⁹² to John Gray Blount

WARRENTON 4th Nov. 1795

Dear Sir,

The other Day I was favour'd by a few Lines from my Friend Tom⁹³, who acquaints me similarly with those I was honour'd last from you, that his next Destiny is not Warrenton— You will not suppose me interested (*other than as I regard his Welfare*) when I say "I am sorry for it—" The Patrons of the University know not this Place as it deserves to be known:—, Time though will convince (and from the worst of all kind of Eviction, Loss of Time,) that this Seminary deserves, if not a Superior, as equal Patronage to any Establishment in North Carolina. You wou'd think me remiss in not writing agreeable to your Request, but at Tom's Departure I really had not Time.— My Expectation was then as 'tis now that I [2] Shou'd meet you at the Great City, [Raleigh] to whence I wile bring the Accounts you requir'd.—

Can I possibly introduce myself to you as I wish, in what I have next to say?—Ile venture, because I think we are both plain Men,—by that I mean, down right Ones'—Hence therefore, if I ask what you don't approve, you'le withhold I hope with less Diffidence than I suggest.—'Tis this—For a Reason, not a *lucreative One*. I have a Desire to be of the Council for this

* Blackledge left his sentence incomplete.

⁹²See Letters for 1790, page 8ⁿ. 24, above, for a sketch of Falkener.

⁹³Thomas H. Blount, the son of John Gray Blount, had been a student at Warrenton, North Carolina.

State—shou'd you think me eligible as necessary, to such an appointment, I know your Indefatigability to be such as wou'd materially lend to my Success.

My Nature is Frankness, and when I subscribe myself as I shall now do it will always be found that I am sincere.

Your Friend & ect.

W^m. FALKENER

Warrenton 4th. Nov^r. 1795

B.—Shou'd Leisure permit I shall be thankful for a Line in Reply.—Excuse Haste.

Addressed: Mr. J. G. Blount
General Assembly
North Carolina

J.W.G. Prescott to Amos Johnston

WASHINGTON 10th November 1795

Sir

Mr James Gorham has I presume eer this informed you of the arrival of the Tuley (I shoud have wrote you by him but could not prevail upon him to wait.— The Tuley arriv'd at the Bar on Thursday last and on Sunday Capt Gorham got here in the Beaver with all the Dry Goods, they are Landed and the Beaver will Start in an hour with M^r. B. Blount to take on an amo^t. [amount] of Salt.

As soon as she starts we [will] begin to open the Goods. I have already examin^d. the Invoice with your Memo: Article by article and find it as nearly Comformable as possible differing in but a few instances and those trifling.

The Russell now on a careen [sic]⁹⁴ and the weather favourable[.] Mr. Gibbs has not yet heard of Mr. Bell but says he thinks he will come.—The Regulator⁹⁵ at the Bar waiting for Salt.—

Mr. [Benjamin] Coakley has not arrived for his Goods shoud he come before we open and mark, it will be convenient to all parties.—

⁹⁴The *Russell* was being cleaned and repaired.

⁹⁵The vessels mentioned in this letter—the *Beaver*, the *Regulator*, the *Russell*, and the *Tuley*—were among those which the Blounts owned or had an interest in ownership.

A Letter has been sent to B. Atkinson for him & A Johnson to come down and bond their Goods as this must be done before they can be moved from the warehouse.—

The Salt and Sugar ordered for Tarboro will be sent up by first opportunity and the prices—

B[enjamin] Blackledge I am in hopes will be able to come out in a day or two and by next opportunity inform you more fully of the State of your business here.—

We have opened a part of the Goods and find them as yet well Chosen and assorted.—The Cloths and Cassimeres particularly so—

Inclose you have Mr Lakes Letter &c p Tuley and Several newspapers.—

B. Blackledge recd. Yesterday a Letter from Amos Johnston[,] wishing to know if he could have 100 bushells Allum & 500 brs: Liverpool Salt. which was immediately answered by the post boy and informd he could have them and the sooner the better. also acquainted him the arrival of the Tuley—I inform him of your being in want of 20 a 25 Barrellspork by the 1st Decembr & your price.—

Billy has bargained for some Green pork at your Limits The mates and Crew of the Tuley still continue on board, Capt Gorham says the Mate has not yet express'd any desire to come up but the crew are anxious for it.—he himself will go down again in the next Lighter—

Several quantities of allum Salt have arrived which has caused the demand by retail to be not so brisk as you may perhaps imagine—

I am Sir

Yr Obt Serv^t.

J W G PRESCOTT

[No address]

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a Nov. 12th 1795

Dear Sir

I have just received yours of the 23^d Ult^o and altho pleased with the contents of the letter am sorry that I am thereby to expect but few more, “for you say that you only write often

when in difficulty" and you now appear to be in full spirits I think much more than I have known you latterly so much so that you have forgotten to say whether the second parcel of Certificate had got to hand the Amount in specie £3399.0.5. and in Currency 15,000 Dollars which I flatter myself are now with you or at least at Washington, they ought to be with you long ago[.] they were forwarded the 23rd—

The Bills in favr of Kirkland & Co have come to hand and are accepted they are payable at 30 Days and those on Baltimore at 30 & 60 will not be in time unless they can be discounted I shall write Smith & Buckhannon on that Subject and to have them ready—for believe me I am as hard pushed as possible under Whip & Spur, yet Sir I shall never loose sight of the general design and shall never fear for myself—your bills shall be taken up at all Events—

I have now a messenger after Gracey and hope to get his Certificate say to £10,000 but this must not stop your diligence all will be wanting [wanted]. I have bound myself to pay for Major Carson for his land say 444000 acres this morning, this evening I sold it again for a profit of twenty one thousand and forty dollars including the fees of Surveying which is to be done at my expence, this will help for other losses and sacrifices.

Can nothing be done with Seaton the bills on this place would be very Valuable at present and make one again be bold.

I am glad to hear your information from the Tuley and the probable Sweep but more so that the Vessell etc. are safe arrived as I am gainer so much by Insurance, you see now what goof Effecte has proceeded from my ill nature—and as your Spirits appear now to be up I once again say to you Gen^l. Smiths 60,000 Acres of the Green Swamp must be had or I am *damned* indeed—Judge W. [Wilson] is hurrying for the Completion of his Titles when can I have enough to compleat for him—and in the Name of God why do not you send me a power to convey the Lands in your Name, they remain on my hands as a Nuisance, I can do nothing with them as they are

Doctor [Hugh] Williamson is here, arrived a few days past, he has hopes W Keas [William Keais] will be appointed Collector. he writes you on thet Subject.

On Saturday or Sunday Morning Col^o Thomas leaves this place, he has taken his passage in the Wm Penn for London on business for me the Contents of which will be communicated

to you (as advised in a former letter) as soon as I can get them Copied but they ar[e] lengthy and I am too much hurried with monied trannactions to devote much time to having them copied until he sails.—This I make no doubt will raise your Curiosity in which there is no need to say Secrecy is necessary and if he succeeds you will own any Attention to Bussiness has not been wanting even in the greatest difficulties as to procure the *desideratum* and I do most religiously believe it will, and for all other lands which I can procure the Agents are men of great information, or respectability and monied friends, and the Wheels well greased if they succeed and nothing but their expenses if they do not and I think the prospects of great gain will effect grand objects their Reward if they Succeed is 227,000\$—

I am of opinion two many lands cant be got in the lower Counties to compleat both Contracts to the Judge and this Scheme—I depend on you [3] wholly for North Carolina lands and as many Territory as you can get, I will procure all others—in my next I will give you an amount of the quantities wanting to compleat each Contract which you will attend to and forward me as early as possible.

I trust the Assembly will be very moderate this session and speedily adjourn, I shall fear until it is over.

I am D^r Sir

Your Obedientt Servant

DAVID ALLISON

Remember me to Mr. Blackledge and other friends—
I do not write Col^o Blount as I expect him on his way here.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Raleigh
North Carolina

David Allison to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 24th, 1795

Dear Sir

I set out at 4 o Clock for New York to try for Certificates what the event may be is uncertain but I have hopes that something may be done—I learn from Mr. Blackledge that the Tuley is

Arrived—your letter red [read] of this day mentions your new Governor,⁹⁶ I would publish your letter but cant stay I fear the Gov^r. portends in no good—

I send you herewith my land plan of which I wrote you before the Want of time to dress it has occasioned it to go forward in the Rough, such as it is I send for your inspection and hope you will give me your advice and opinion thereon, if it proceeds I shall quit land Spec. for ever[.] Shew it Mr Blackledge—

Every Exertion to aid you shall be used by me but be assured I am hard pushed, *I will not complain*, you promise me assistance a pittance in the Spring

The notes to Carson must be endorsed or I loose the Contract and I have Sold at 25 cents at the same times of payment God Bless you

DAVID ALLISON

444000 at 25 cts is 1,11,000\$

[No Address]

William Armistead to John Wallace

JAMACIA 25th Nov. 1795

Dear Sir

I have just time to write you these few lines by Capt William Williams in the Brig^e Polleary now getting underway for your Port—It is however out of my Power to give you any considerable information of either markets or news from this port owing to two reasons the one I only arive here last night the other I am not able to walk from the rheumatism or what not what you know I left your port with and for a few days past has got extreemly worse. This added to a total relaxation and weakness of habet prevents my even sitting up more than half the day—however I went on shore this morning got a horse & made what inquiry I could for the little tim I could ride from which I am doubtfull[.] I have got to a very unfavourable market for my Cargo Corn suppose at 5/6 a [to] 5/8 flour supr fine you know the quality of mine about 11—if new & good 16 dolls[.] 18 Inch Shing^s 50 a 55/22 Inch more in demand[.]— Carolina [2]

⁹⁶Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 98, contains a biographical sketch of Ashe.

Pork £6 a 6.10 must be pickled[,] Shads 6 a 7 dolls good[,] suppose your Mullets would be worth as much[.] Lumber I cannot tele the real price but high Scantling was sold here a few days ago for 50 a 55 dolls[;] R O H [Red Oak Hogshead] Staves suppose about 40 a 50 do[;] Rum 5/6 a 6/[;] Sugr a 12 dolls[;] Coffee 15 a 18 do[.] Gold is about 3/8 doller lighter than ours in the Value of a Joe Cash seems to be pretty plenty—fer further particulars of markets I must by leave to refer you to Capt Williams—however if you or Mr. Blount should ship to this Island I would rather advise that the Vessele should stop at fort Morant which is about 4 miles to windward of this place & let the Vessele lay there tile the Consigner may dispose of the Cargo or advise for her to come down as the marketts are freequently to be disposed of to better advantage to the Planters in the Windward side provided a delivery can be made them there—they commonly come over here to purchase & tis difficult if the Purchase [is made] from on board to beat the Vessele back consequently they make the difference [3] of a high freight loss—and further the produce is generally lower to windward than here[.] tis now to be bought to windward Rum at 4/6—her[e] 5/6 a 6/—I did not intend this rout but by a heavy blow in Lat^d 27—Long^d 6S I was obliged to bear away after laying to 4 days—offer me to all friends while I am D Sir

Your Obd S

WILL ARMISTEAD

Excuse haste

Addressed: John Wallace Esquire
Shell Castle
N^o Carolina

Favored by
Capt W Williams
Brig. Polleary

Benjamin Coakley⁹⁷ to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 30th Nov^r. 1795

Dr Sir

By Mr Daniels you will receive four Hundred & ninety Bushels Peas which is all the Boat wile carry—You will please

⁹⁷Coakley was a regular customer of the Blounts. Consult the index of *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, as well as the references in this volume.

to load the Boat back with a fule load of Liverpool Salt as I have contracted for it & you must not fail to send it[.] at any rate Send me also three or four Barrels Sugar as I am intirely out, I will load the boat back with Peas, You must pay twenty Dollars for the freight of the Peas, I will Send you the Money for the Sugar you send me[.] Your Compliyance will obliged

Your Friend &

Humbl Servt.

B. COAKLEY

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

P Mr)

Daniels)

John Mitchell to John G. Blount

WASHINGTON CITY 3 Dec^r, 1795

Sir

My Brother Nathanil, who is master of a small vessell belonging to Capt Alderman of your State informs me you wish to be particularly informed of the prices of Building stone, such as the foundation of the Capitial Presdents House & etc is laid with, Can be delivered along Side a vessell Drawing any Draught of water for 93 cent per peaces, the peace Contain 24 feet 9 Inches Solid or Cabuet [Cubit, *sic*] measure & is 16/2 feet long 18 Inch^s high & one feet thick, weighs from 2400 to 2500 pound, I have been particular to instruct you to make your Calculations; Shoud you find them to Answer. and think proper to put that on any other buldg^s under my direction you may Depend on Dispatch and puntcallity. Pork Navel Stores & Lumber are in very Great Demand, Gold—alderson 10 Inch Shingles for 5 Dol. p m [thousand]. & his 2 feet for 8½ Dollar's Pm by the Cargo.

From what my Brother Nathanel say, was my Capitol not too small, or Rather inactive, I would make you an offer to be half Consen'd in any shipment you choose to make to this place—However, if you [2] think proper, I am Content to be half Consen'd in all the Lumber you ship here. Shingles I particularly

recomend—Pork I am offered of Contract for 15 Dollars pr barl, from the Public, but shall not accept as I Cannot here [hear] from you before they must Close the Bus^{ne} the 15 of the present month. However you need not be fearful of obtaining that price here, Indian Corn is extremly high say 3 2/3 Dol per Barrell & at 2/3 of a Dol per Bushell. The port wete [weight, sic] but I apprehended it proper to write shortly on the bussn—& with much Respect I am Sir

Yr Mo Obd Ser
John Mitchell

Addressed: Hon^{ble} John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

[BUNCOMBE COUNTY]⁹⁸ 7th Dec. 1795

Dear Sir

You request me in a Letter of the first Inst. to Give a particular discription of the land I have Surveyed for you in Buncombe County, that would take much time, but I will give a General one in few words; The Land consists of Vallies and Mountains and not more than one fifth of which can be call'd poor Land & is all the best watered Country I ever saw[.] The General Growth of the Timber is walnuts black & white, Locusts, Sugar Trees, Buck Eyes, Lyms [lime or linden, sic], poplars & Oaks of every description; the black & white Hickory grows very plentiful—a Great Number of Wild Cherry & Cucumber Trees are to be found throughout our Lands;

I have observations in my field Book of Buck Eyes measuring thirteen feet round the Body & black walnuts near the Same Size these were found in plenty in runing the line without searching out on Either side as well on the mountains as in the Vallies

From all I saw I am led to beleive the whole [2] land would average fifteen Bushells of Wheat to the Acre & Great part would produce Excellent Timothy Clover & Blue grass without manure as all of them are now found in wilderness

⁹⁸Buncombe County lies in the western part of North Carolina. Asheville, its largest city, is a well-known health resort.

Perhaps the mountain call'd the *walnut mountain* which is included in Your Survey is the richest in the world.

The Great Bawld mountain is also rich to the top and even on the Top Timothy & Clover Grow amongst the Weeds to great perfection—

The Herbage which is Very plentiful[.] on the mountains is Ginseng, Spikenard, ries weeds, & white nettles Some of which Grow Eight or Ten feet High & as thick over the Ground as You will commonly See Hemp & etc—⁹⁹

I am Sir with respect your
most Obedient Serv'
R^o. LOVE

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount
Beaufort County

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHIL^a 11th Dec 1795

Dear Sir,

Good weather & the Company of Mr Grove¹⁰⁰ made my journey hither very pleasant I arrived here on the 4th Inst in good health & have continued so.—I have rec^d your letter of the 29th Ult^o I shall in the course of the next or following week have a good opportunity, which I will embrace of forwarding the Inclosures of it to Mr. Murdock¹⁰¹ to whom I will at the same time write on the Subject of them—Mr A [Allison] was when I came & still is at New York endeavoring, as he has informed me by Letter & I have been told by others, to raise money, which, it seems to be matter of notoriety, he has great occasion for a great deal of—I infer from his last letter & message that his prospect of success was good & expect him home hourly—The want of Cash is more generally & severely felt here at this time than ever it was at any time before. from 3 to 4 pct. is given daily, & by the best sort of men, for the use of it. The notes of M & N [Morison & Nicolson] & of W the J [Wilson, the judge]—have,

⁹⁹This is undoubtedly intended as a sales letter and was written in this vein for Blount's use. Love was a substantial citizen of that section.

¹⁰⁰William Barry Grove.

¹⁰¹William Murdock of England was a good friend of Thomas Blount. The "Inclosures" probably had something to do with land sales.

I am informed, for some time past passed, when they passed at all, at 10/ in the pound & under—How M^r. A may have been affected by this Depreciation you can as easily judge as myself—He must doubtless have suffer'd by it exceedingly.—Zephaniah Thrift a member of Congress from Connecticut wishes to purchase a large quantity of N^o Caro Land—he says for a [2] friend, but I suspect for himself & friends—and having heard that you have large bodies of it for sale has desired me to ask you to permit [present, *sic*] him, through me by next post, with a description list of such as you wish to sell, the prices & the payments required—I understand from him that a Credit would be prefer'd but that Cash will be given to a large amount if the price is liked—I told him the lowest price you had sold at pr cash was 1/3 of a dollar by the 100th A[cre] but he did not say whether he would give that—you had therefore better state the lowest price you can take & the price you think you ought to have, & say what part of the purchase money you would give Credit for & how long—It appears to be probable from his conversation on the Subject that you may make a good bargain with him & perhaps a large one—Pitch is here 25/ & Tar 22/6 & in demand there being but little or none in the market—I have inclosed to Capt M Daniel for the information of every body the Presidents' Speech to both Houses of Congress which contains all the news I have collected worth Communicating. I believe a very large majority of the members of the H of Rep think of The Treaty with England as I do, but I have discover'd no Disposition to violence on the part of any of them & as we have Dayton, according to my wish for our Speaker I hope we shall be kept in orders—Randolphs vindication, it is said, will shortly appear when it does I will send you a Copy of it. Remember me to your family & my friends.

Yours Affectionately

THO G BLOUNT

Thomas sailed for England
about a fortnight before I arrived here—

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

*David Allison to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. Dec. 18th. 1795

Der Sir

Mr [Thomas] Blount has written you on the Subject of Lands for a Connecticut Company.—In Answer to that letter you had better say to him that you have sold all to me except those on the North Tar River and that they are as well as all the other swamp land very Valuable, that you will not take less than one & a half Dollars per Acre and that money in hand would alone induce you to take that. By next Post write a Second of the Same Nature and forward Col^o Blount that I may S one or other as I may find my plan succeed or not—I am this day to lay a plan before Mr. Swift to forward to the [Connecticut, sic] Company, I hope for success I will do the best I can—You say I am not to depend on you for Certificates to pay Major Carrons Land, I do not, I hope to be able to send them and many more shortly, to pay all Arrarages to the office for our lands—The Bills on Baltimore [2] were not accepted of which I suppose you have had notice

I am Dr Sir

Yours

DAVID ALLISON

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington
N^o. Carolina

*Thomas Blount to Tench Coxe**Copy*PHIL^a. 18th Decr. 1795

Sir.

I was sorry to learn from your Letter of the 29th September, last which I received a few Days only before I left home, that no offer had been made to build either the Light House or Beacon House described by Law to be built in the State of North Carolina, as they are both Objects of great & general Concern to all descriptions of people interested in the Commerce of Navi-

gation, of that State, But for the following Reasons, was not surprized that offers to build them had not been rec^d. from Persons residing there first, Every man there can employ his Capital advantageously in Commerce or Agriculture & of course no one has a surplusage to tempt him into more arduous & less profitable Enterprises.—

Secondly, Many of the materials necessary for such Buildings, such as Stone which is not found near either of the places & Bricks which cannot be made there, must be carried from distant places with a degree of Difficulty & at a rate of Expense which the people of that Country do not generally well know how to calculate—

Thirdly, Masons, Bricklayers & other Workman that must necessarily be employed in the erection of such Buildings are not sufficiently numerous at any one place in the State to perform the work within the time that could be allowed for finishing it and the Expense & Difficulty of procuring them elsewhere & conveying them there are either not known by men unacquainted with that sort of Business as the people of that Country [2] generally are, or consider'd too great to be encountered, & fourthly, The site of the Light House is almost as remote from the Seaport Towns of that State as from Phil^a. or New York which are in many respects more convenient to it than either of them as the materials for building must be carried to it by water in vessels capable of going to Sea (Pamlico Sound through which they must pass being at times as boisterous as the ocean) & many of them can be furnished cheaper & better from either of those places [Philadelphia or New York] than from any part of North Carolina.—Besides, there arise out of the nature of the Sites two objections to your Plans, which to people who know them appear insuperable—The first lies against the foundation of the Light House. You say it must be sunk 13 feet below the bottom of the Water table, or Surface of the Earth, and well informed men of whom I have asked & received Information say, it is impossible to sink it more than 8, or 9 feet—Because, as all Hills found upon the Banks are composed altogether of Sand which has often, within the memory of people now living, shifted, it will be found necessary, there being no Land any where on the Banks that has a Clay foundation, to place the Building upon one of the low, flat, stiff spots called by the people

who inhabit the Banks, Savannas, which lie from 6 to 8 feet lower than the Sand Hills & under which water is generally found within 8 or 9 feet of the surface of the Earth.

The second lies against the foundation of the Beacon House which you say [3] must be sunk $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface of the Earth. Now, the Site of this Building being a Rock, or bed of Oyster Shells & Sand possessing the solidity of a Rock, which lies but little, say not more than one foot, above the surface of the surrounding water at common Tide, it is conceived that the foundation cannot be sunk at all, but must rest on the surface of the rock & be solid to the height of 4 or 5 feet which is as high as the Tide at any time rises.—People acquainted with the Coast of N^o Caro. know too that the undertaker of the Light House will find an Inconvenience & Expense of considerable importance in the necessity of Boating in flat bottomed Boats, his materials for building of every kind at least one mile through the Sound (for the Vessel that carries them from where they are made or purchased can no where get nearer to the Shore) & a considerable distance up a small Creek—and again in Hauling them from that Creek to the Spot on which the Building is to Stand the Distance being three miles & the way so Sandy that Oxen cannot be used because the Sand would split their feet.

I know no person who could likely be prevailed on to undertake to build the Light House upon any Plan; but think it probable there might come offers from Carolina to build the Beacon House, as it is an object of vast importance to all Merchants & Mariners of that State, if the Plan of it was altered as I have Suggested—

I am with very great Respect

Yr. M^o. Ob^t. Serv

THO. BLOUNT

Copy of a Letter

To French Coxe, Esq.

Commissioner of the Revenue

18th Dec^r. 1795

Tench Coxe to Thomas Blount

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

REVENUE OFFICE, Decem 19, 1795

Sir

I have this day the honor of your letter of the 18th instant, on the subject of the Beacon and Light House intended to be erected on the coast of North Carolina—The reasons for not receiving propositions from thence (except that relative to the depth of the foundations, of which I was not aware) are such as were to have been expected. The preventives of proposals from the middle and northern States, I conceive to have been only the abundance of profitable, and agreeable employment at the doors of the qualified and reputable mechanics.—

In regard to the foundations, the greatest care was taken to obtain information by actual inspection in the case of Hatteras, and the cavity for the Virginia light House when [2] when sunk to 13, had been on the recommendations of our Inspector, and of the contractor, extended to 20 feet.—On the other hand, in a Northern case, the depth had been diminished on account of a broad and solid rock which happily presented itself near the surface of the Earth.—Such modifications as necessity dictated, or obvious expediency recommended, have been hitherto cheerfully admitted, on a compromise of cost by the contractors, and by the Treasury.—They must often occur in the erection of such buildings.—I am convinced from the circumstances which have attended the formation of your Coast, that such variations are no where likely to be more necessary: and I am ready therefore, to adopt any modification of which a well informed proposer shall point out the propriety.—On this ground you will very much oblige me by drawing forth a proposition in any form, for either object [3]

With great Respect,

I have the honor to be, Sir,—

Your most obedient Servant

TENCH COXE

Commissioner of the Revenue

Treasury Department

Revenue Office

Addressed: Thomas Blount Esquire
of North Carolina

*John Sitgreaves¹⁰² to John Gray Blount*HALIFAX 20. Decemb^r 1795

Dear Sir

I rec^d your Letter by Gov^r. [William R.] Davie with the blank Commission which I will endeavour to have executed & forwarded in due time to the Masters' Office in New Bern—

I am sorry you have felt yourself obliged to remind me of Ogdens affairs, they are I assure you seldom out of my mind, a combination of untoward Circumstances had hitherto prevented me from arranging the papers & preparing my accounts for a Settlement which I must regret, ill health has been one of the chief causes, never since last July have I had health enough scarcely to sit down & write a letter & my complaints have regularly progressed since that time until they have become so great that I sometimes doubt whether I shall outlive the Spring, I have not been out of my room these four weeks & great part of that time in my bed—among the papers I delivered you belonging to the Ogdens are a great number of my Vouchers & papers which are essential in making up my Accounts I must beg the favor of you to have all such laid aside when you overlook those papers or if that is not convenient I would willingly pay some one for doing it that you could trust, they were among those which we took out of the Desk when I delivered that to you [2]

I hope to be able to procure them when I come on at April Court & if so we will not separate until we make a final settlement, I cannot be certain now whether I shall call at Washington as I go on to New Bern or after the Court is over—but I will appraise you in time—.

As to your own private account I trust there will be no difficulty with that. it should not you may be assurrd have remained so long undischarged, had my finances permitted otherwise I have been these three years struggling to pay off My Debts & have been obliged to pay off the most clamorous & troublesome Creditors just for the sake of quiet, had you been of that description I suppose you would have been paid before now—

¹⁰²For a sketch of John Sitgreaves, see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 189n. 41.

Make my respects to Mrs Blount with those of Mrs S.
[Sitgreaves] who has a Daughter 4 days old

I am Dr Sir with great regard

Your obed. Sarvt

JN^o. SITGREAVES

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington

Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount

BENSBOROUGH Dec^m 21st 1795

Mr Jn^o. G Blount

Dear Sir I wrote you by Mr Andrews which perhaps has Reached you before this who has 200 lbs Naval Stores to be landed on your Warf in order to load Scarborough at his Return who saild from Norfolk the 9th of this Instant, but should Scarborough Refuse to go Back to Norfolk with another load please to Ship the whole of the Tar pitch & Turpentine unto Warren Ashley so before Directed in the first Vessel that can be had for that place I should be glad to hear if your Brigs have Sailed for Jamaica or when they will go—

I want one of them to load Naval Stores unto Liverpool in the Spring or at their Return if you cannot spare one of them I must send to the Northward and the sooner I know your mind so much the Better

I am Truly Dear Sir Yrs &c

BEN ATKINSON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Merch^t
Washington

J. W. G. Prescott¹⁰³ to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE 21st Decemb. 1795.

Sir

On my arrival here Capt J. Wallace happend to be absent at a Sale on Hatteras of a Stranded Vessell, and wise [was the,

¹⁰³Prescott often served as a supercargo for the Blounts who were having two vessels loaded for the West Indies at this time. Prescott was to command the *Regulator*, Smith the *Russell*. See John Wallace to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1795, page 634, below.

sic] pilot of a Vesell on the Swash[.] at their return Saturday Evening the Governor concluded Wise should go [as the mate, sic] as no other person could be procured.

I found Capt. Smith complaining much for want of food for his Hogs, he says they were at allowance for some days, in consequence I thought it prudent to put 25 bushells pease from the Regulator on board him with directions not to use them untill his other provisions of a worse quality are expended and should they remain to dispose of them &c—The Vacancy is filled up with Shingles—Mulletts is reported here to be very high at Cape Nicolas [West Indies]. I have taken four barrells from the Governor [John Wallace] on your acct [for you] and mean to risk them on Deck. I hope and expect they will go Safe.—Ned Ryan consented to go with Smith on receiving your Letter.—We will sail this day at Slack Water say about 12 o'clock.

I am Very Respectfully

Your Obed Serv

J W G PRESCOTT

Mr Wallace has a letter from W Armstead dated 25th. Nov^r—which I have read. mentions nothing of any insurrection or troubles with the Negroes. quotes the price such as we Supposed of Lumber—pork £6 . . 10—Corn only 5/6.—pease not mentioned.—the Letter is now mislaid but Mr. W. promises to inclose it to you—

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq^r.
Washington

John Willis to John Gray Blount

LUMBERTON 22 Dec^r 1795

Dear Sir/

There is an old man whose lands Join my mill Lands & a part of which is Overflown by my pond, who has once hired a fellow to cut my Mill dam. In which he was detected, & upon Examination I found the land he Claimed to be Vacant, or as much of it as 50 Acres on this I laid an old warrant, but the old fellow has entered a Caveat in the Secretaries office, &

fearing he may get the better of me, I have examined & find that it will be covered by your large Surveys So that if I loose it he can't obtain it, of this I want to give you timely Notice least he should apply. & that You may rite me by the first post, a relinquishment of your Claim to that piece of 50 acres in my favor—So that I may have it to produce to the Jury—my health is much [2] Better than when I left you, I hope you Got safe home, my Collection of pork has been as much as I expected, I shall save about 300 Bls. Write me your prospects of that Article I am in Great hast

Dr Sir Yours
J WILLIS

Lumberton Dec^m 21st

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq—
Washington

Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 22nd, Dec. 1795

D^r Sir

The Boat I started from Washington is not yet arrived and I cant account for it, as soon as she arrives I will dispatch her with a load of Peas to the Bar for the Tooley, I hope by this you have got some small Vessel that will take a Hh^d Tobacco in her Hatchway and send her forward with the fine Salt If she has not started send me two or three pieces of Negro Cotton,¹⁰⁴ say white, the Vessel that comes with the Salt must be one that will take in Tobacco as I wish to get my Tobacco with Grain to Washington so as to make payment—

I am D^r Sir
Your H^{bl}. Servt.
B. COAKLEY

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Merchant
Washington

p Post

¹⁰⁴"Negro Cotton" was a coarse cloth, usually imported from Osnaburg, or Osnabruck, in Prussia and was used to make clothing for the slaves. Cotton cloth was not made to any extent in the South until well into the nineteenth century.

*Thomas Smith to John Gray Blount*Decemb^r 22nd—1795

Now on my way going Out

Mr Jno G. Blount

Sir

I Hereby inform you with pleasure of my sailing this Day for Cape Nicholas Mole & I farther in form you that I have got Ned Ryan as Mate—We have been Long getting equipt for the Voyage, tho it cant be presumd that it was through my Neglect as I never hurried & Indeavrd more—to forward Business—the Bills of Lading & Manifest I have Signd, the reason why I wrote you to get a Sailor for us was that William Smith who was one my Crew Left me for a while on account of his father in Law Lying likely to die, however Since he has Returned on board I have nothing more to add but wish you well & all your family, please give my best Resspect to Jack Smith

& you will obg

your most obt Ser

THOS. SMITH

[2] Since the foregoing was wrote the winds be Came Moderate on the Barr & the Flood Setting in obl^d [obliged] us to anchor in the Channel again, the Yawl¹⁰⁵ I Sent up By the Bearer 25th. I am trying to go out this morning T.S

N B/as I have nothing on board but 3 pigs 2 geese & Duck & have here to fore no time nor money, I shall therefore wish to take my ventur in Scantling & Boards or Shingles, that is if it is agreeable to you otherwise, I have nothing, T S.

28th this Day I take my Dep^t from Occock [Ocracoke] after So many treils to get Sea

T. SMITH

Addressed: Jno. G^r. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

¹⁰⁵The small boat belonging to a ship.

Hamilton and Wilkinson to John Gray & Thomas Blount

NEW PROVIDENCE Dec 23. 1795

Gentlemen,

Your favor ye 21st last p favor of Mr. Thompson we duly receivd; since which time we have not had any direct opportunity for your place, & at present cannot say when there will—this day we have Ship'd you to New York to Care of Mr. Peter Schimmerhon according to your request the Mt Pad [amount paid (*sic*)] of the fortyEight Barrels Pork left with us by Capt Prescott (*the money we have sent by Capt Wyndom Bradbury of the Schooner Lucy*) ammount^d to two hundred & forty eight Pounds ten Shillings & three pence—American Produce is at present very high here and Scarce, except Lumber & Cheese, which the Markett has been over stocked with latterly—as on the otherside you have a price Currant, but expect several Vessels from New York which probably will make some Alterations, but will inform you of our Markets from time to time as opportunities may offer—

We have nothing to [2] add to but Conclude with respect,
Gentlemen,

Yr Obed-Hhble Servt

HAMILTON & WILKINSON

P: S. You have inclosed the Sales & Acct Currnt for the Pork—

Addressed: Mess^{rs} J. G. & Th^s Blount

Merchants

Washington

NORTH CAROLINA

Via Charleton

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE, "23 Decm." 1795

Sir

Inclosed you have a Bile Lading and Manifest of the Vessel's Cargo, also Prescotts' Letter, and one from M^r. Armstead,

The Regulator, Sailed Yesterday, Wise is goin Mate, Ned Ryan Mate of of the Vessel who attempted to get out Yesterday

also, but could not owing to the Wind's being so far to the Eastward, [he] could not fetch out, but will proceed to Sea the moment the Wind permits

Joe Pinkham comes [as, sic] Master of the Beaver to Load for the Tuly You will please to fill him (Except one Chord of Wood and as much Corn as he can bring in his Cabbin) I am out of Corn and have been obliged to borrow [for] some time

Please send One Barrel new Pork if to be got

I have no other Lighter can send you at present, being obliged to send [2] send my other to morrow to Cedar Island for my Wharf Timber and my Brother David is goin up Nuse [Neuse River] with his

I send you up one of the Sheathing nails you sent me, which is to [too] short by an Inch & half an to [too] small by one half, observe the Sheathing board to be one inch thick the Paper, Pitch, Lime Land & hair be one Inch more which will require a Nail to be as long as a doubleton to have any ahoid in the

Part*

I have got my Paper from N York and have sent for the hair to Mr. Neale

I wish you to have Fifty tho^s of nails made as quick as possible suitable for this work as I want much to get the Vessels compleated, people pressing me very much to land Lumber.

I will send you a memorandum next time by the Beaver what dimentions to saw the plank for, sheathing the port's*

I wish you to procure for me one hundred barrels Corn at three Dollars at or below Greenville, in case Mc Daniel have not done it, and I wile send you the Money, as I have a great many hands hired, many of which I must supply with Corn, or cannot carry on my Business here.

Captain Gorham comes up in the Beaver, as there is no plank here, or any other Lumber but Shingles.

Please supply a small [order, sic]* sent you by Mrs Wallace. Also Capt Job with Bread as we have none here

We are all well at the Castle and are with Respect to you & others.

Dr Sir

Your most Obd & Humble Serv.

* This manuscript is badly marred.

N B.

There is 7000 feet Scantling
in our Whaft Timber and
that are for Light wood [kindling]

JOHN WALLACE

One pair Strong hinges for Smoak house Door

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILA. 24th Dec^m 1795

Dear Sir

Your Bill in favor Dan^l. Anderson for 3000 \$ was on the 10th Ins^{td}. protested for non payment & at the request of Mr Gracie who holds it & politely informed me of its situation. I am endeavoring to take it up for the honor of the Drawer which I hope I shall accomplish, but if I do it will be by the help of Doctor Hugh Williamson who to accommodate me must sell Bank Stock at a loss of 2/2 P Cent P month which I must make good—that however must be submitted to as D. A. [David Allison] tho he is informed that Leroy's Bills on Champayne & Dagme [*sic*] be paid, cannot come forward to do the Business in time—He says he shall be able to repay the Doctor as the end of a month & if he should do that, all will be well again but he is so embarrassed & has so many Duns hourly at his Door that really I do not know how far his promises to pay money at a time certain may be depended on, & therefore I must call your attention to the ticklish situation in which this loan from the Doctor made for your Credit will place me—The information I asked for Mr Swift of Connecticut may, & I think ought to be given to D. A. who expects to make a great gargain with him for N^o Caro Dirt— Should he succeed to expectation his [2] Difficulties will be at an end & you will have no more trouble—enclosed is Information to M^r. [Jonathan] Price of the terms at which he may get his map of N^o. Carolina engraved here in the most elegant style & is my opinion he had better determine to accede to them—the News Papers, are so barren that they are

not worth sending to you I have therefore cut out of one what I should have sent to you by lat [last] post if my Letters had not been too late for the mail[.] the answer of the Ho. of Rep. to the President's speech with his reply—what [which] you will find inclosed—Congress has yet done but little Business & that little is un[im]portant—I sent Williamson my power of [attorney, sic] & letter with your Letter & one from myself [to]* Mr Murdock by John Harrison an honest quaker of this City who sailed from here the 17th Inst. & promised to deliver all with his own hand. I expect B. Baker [Blake Baker] will call on you the 1st of next Month for payment of my note due that day for 570 Dollars; & if he should, pray endeavor to pay him for it is certain I cannot pay by remittance from here as I have but a shilling of money to spare[.] I have rec^d. all your letters to the 9th Inst. inclusive[.] by this mail I send to Mr Daniel & Ben Blackledge Mr Randolph's vindication of his Resignation in a public letter to which I refer you—I am in good health & present to you & your family the Compliments of the Season—

Yours & etc

THOS. BLOUNT

Tell the Major [Reading Blount, sic] I have rec^d. his land warrant for 400 acres—the value of which in the market is about 120 Dollars

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington,
No Carolina

Peter Casso¹⁰⁶ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Decem. 24th 1795

D^r. Sir

it was Reported to Me yesterday, that at your Return from This place, [Raleigh] in tarborough, at Betford's tavern, you had Said if ever you Should come here again; you would put up at a Barn, Before you Should put up with Me, which Report Does hurt Me Very Much, altho, I Hardly put Any Confidence, in it,

* The manuscript is torn.

¹⁰⁶Peter Casso was a proprietor of a very imposing tavern in Raleigh. He was probably a member of the Casso family of Washington, North Carolina.

Knowing That I Dont Recollect, I ever gave Reason to Mr. Blount to be offended; if I Did, I Had No such intention and if Mr. Blount Renders Me Justice, The indeverous [endeavors] That I Have Show him, of meriting his attentions and Common friendship Ever Since he Knows Me, will at once Convince him, That any Thing I have Done, if wrong, was Done innocently, Therefore, Cannot See any Reason for any Such Expression, from Mr. Blount. Therefore, I will hardly Bleaved untill I am farther Convinced; in hopes That you will Not take it Amiss, in gaving you This information, and if you have Said So, you have Reason for it, of which I am intirely Stranger; I Beg Then, you will Be Kind Enough, to Drop Me a line on the Occasion, at your Leisure;

with This Sentiments, I Remain with

Estime & Respects;

D^r. Sir

Your Most Humble Ob^t. Serv^t.

P. CASSO

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Merchant
Washington

P. S. Excuse The Smallness of the paper, (as it is Now 4 Oclock, A.M.) and have No more in this House

Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 25th Decr. 1795

D^r Sir

Since writing you by post the 22nd Instant the small Vessel arrived, She will start from here in two days from this with a load of Peas as heretofore mentioned If the Vessel is not Started with the fine Salt 'ere this reaches you please to Send me two or three pieces of Negro Cotton, say white, as I have mentioned before, three Prs. of your largest Rose Blanketts, four largest Copper kettles & two small ones, if the Vessel have started please to send me the Blanketts & kettles by this Vessel whom you will

load back with Fine Salt please to write me by the first post if the Vessel is coming forward with the fine Salt and the Articles.

Your Compliance will Oblige

Your Friend & Humble Servt

free

B. COAKLEY

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Merchant

Washington

P Post

John Strother to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Dec. 28th 1795

Sir

In the morning I set out from this place to make a finish of Brunswick County agreeable to your Wishes; which I flatter myself I can compleat in two weeks; from thence I intend to proceed to Bladen, to finish and compleat a Survey of part of that county which I apprehend from Information will be Satisfactory to you; for Particulars I refer you to Mr. Blackledge—

I am happy to hear that Mr. Price has got a small part of our business (If I may say our) published, but am sorry to think I am not known in it, but we must know each other better before any part of my *Notes* is *published*, If there is any Credit to be derived from the business I all ways flattered myself with haveing [2] a reciprocal part of it; if merited; if Otherwise; I think I ought to know it in time—I only mention this to you as a friend; for I must confess that I do not think my friend Price has dealt with me, with that Injiniousness that I expected—however this will be a Subject for a futur day¹⁰⁷

Please present my best wishes to all friends—

I am with Respect

Yr. M^o. Ob^t.

JOHN STROTHER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Attention of)

Mr. Blackledge)

¹⁰⁷Strother seems to have helped prepare the map which was associated with the name of Jonathan Price only.

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE 30 Decem 1795

D^r. Sir

The Beaver Arrive'd here on the Evening of the 28th. Ins. she is now discharg'd and wile Sail in the morning for your place. for a load for the Tuley

My Brother Joe is gone up and wile inform you respecting his Lighter and Mr Hale's which I am in hopes you will proceed to bring the Staves from Bay River, as it is out of my power to supply any other Lighter but the Beaver which will be constantly employ'd in loading the Tuley until her Cargo is compleated,

I am sorry you have no Pork on hand and I want a Barrel for my Fathers who depends on me for it, whenever you can get that which is good you will please to send me a Barrel

As for Corn I must have [it] or discharge the men I have hired as they depend on me for Corn let the price be [2] be what it wile and if any to be had send as much as you can in the Beaver['s] Cabbin

Half the Wood you sent down [by] Capt Gorham has taken for the Tuley

The Vessel [the *Tuley*] got over the Barr the 28 Inst. could not get out before owing to a very rough Bar and the Wind to the Southard and Eastward in Company with the Brig Bell¹⁰⁸

I am Sir

Your Most Obd Serv^t.

JOHN WALLACE

John G. Blount Esquire

[No Address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILA 31. Dec. 1795

Dear Sir,

Immediately after receiving your Letter of the 10th Ins^t. I enquired what premium would be taken for Insurance on the Vessell against the dangers of the Sea, & rec^d. for answer from

¹⁰⁸Both the *Tuley* and the *Bell* were Blount vessels. It was difficult for a vessel as large as the *Tuley* to cross the bar.

the Insurance Comp^s that they would take 7/2 P Cent to return 3½ if she was sold at Mole St. Nicholas or Jamaica— which appeared to me so extravagant that it not being perfectly convenient to pay such a sum, I have, for the present declined giving it. I may perhaps give it some time hence if upon reflection I should think it best but my present opinion is that I shall not—for I consider that being Lumber loaded the danger of the Sea cannot be worth the Prem. asked—besides I apprehend that in case of a loss there might be some difficulty in getting payment from the Comp^y.—It is true that your Bond to pay Morris' paper to Cruges is not yet paid & the reason assigned by Allison for not paying it is that he could find no person to pay it to—The Gentlemen who was to have held it in this City subject to his call has never had it in possession the Paper has always been ready if the Bond could have been found—Mr Allison will himself write you more fully on the subject

I have this day taken up your Bill [2] for 3000 Dollars in favor of W^m Kirkland & Co. which I told you in my last had been protested for non-payment with Money obtained, through the assistance of Doct^r. Williamson on loan. it was for 27 days at an Interest of 2½ pr Cent p Month—Mr Allison has assured me that the funds to repay will be raised in time for Leroy's Bills which he has been informed by Smith & Buchanan will be paid—inclosed is a copy of my Representation to the Commissioner of the Revenue concerning the L^t. House & Beacon House with his answer thereto—which I send you that you may if you please, make or encourage an offer to build them or either of them—Two Villains, Viz^e. Robt. Randall & Charles Whitney have been endeavoring to Bribe some of the members of Congress & by the inclosed Paper & two others which I enclose to Cap^t. McDaniel you will see that they were caught by whom, & hope they have been proceeded against—The proceedings of the House may have been proper on the occasion but I do not think so—the delay to examine them at the Bar of the House Seems in some measure to warrant a Suspicion that Bribes had been accepted, tho I hope that will not prove to be the case—It was my opinion that the House ought to continue sitting from the time information was rec^d. of their attempt to bribe until they were brought to the Bar & examined—but the proceeding was otherwise & the examination of Randall against whom there is most proof is postponed (as I before said improperly) until Monday [3] next—I can at

present give no more information of this shameful Business than is contained in the Papers I have mentioned but will after the trial of the Rascals is over give a full acc^t. of it to each of the Counties of the District. I am in perfect health & with Compliments to your family—

Yours &c

THOS. BLOUNT

Free, Thos Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esquire
Washington
N^o. Carolina.

John Wallace to John Gray Blount

[SHELL CASTLE] Dec. 1795

D. Sir

Yesterday I rec^d your letter by Wise, the day before the other by the Brig Russell, the Beaver was a long Side and half Loded before I got your first Letter, But I am in hopes she will be down in time for the Brig has all to Stow away and Bills Load to take in yet. Bills Shall be unloaded before his four Days is up and all the assistance I can Give to Smith [Commander of the *Russell*] to Get him away Shall be done, the men Shall be changed as you say but have not had time yet

I wish you to send me by the Beaver for Castle 2 Barrels Pork ten Barrels Corn, the Corn Can go in the Cabin. [3]

We have met with ill Luck [with] the Last Raft of Logs, in about six Miles of the Castle on Saturday Last the wind shifted to Eastward on them, and broke the Raft and Lost all the Logs 112 pieces, and am oblig^d to Get more which we shall have all logged up before the Last of July

I am Sir

in haste yours

JOHN WALLACE

N B I send my young man Vallentine Wade to come Down [to be] Cap^t of the Beaver, and wise to come in Wrights Brig

J W

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.
Washington

PAPERS FOR 1790-1795

Receipt for State Tobacco Stored with John Gray Blount¹

March 4, 1790

Mr. John Stuart

To John Gray & Tho. Blount

For the Storage of 45 Hogshead 4 1/5 Mos. @ 2/. P Hhd.
£21.11.3²

Received the Contents March 4th 1790

J. G. BLOUNT

Deposition of George Ogg³

November 29, 1790

Fayetteville

George Ogg of full age first having sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God Depose⁴ that he was presenly on Tugelo River in the County of Franklin in the State of Georgia on the 16th day of June 1786 with William Blount Esqr then Agent for the State of North Carolina and a Certain Bryant Ward an Indean Trader and at the same time & place the s^d William Blount Sold & Deliver Goods wares & Merchandise to The s^d Ward to the amount of nine hundred & seventy nine pounds five Shillings & seven pence Sterling Money for which the s^d ward then and there Entered into one bond payable to s^d Blount as Agent for the State for three hundred & twenty Nine pounds fifteen shillings & two pence Sterling payable on the first day of April 1786— which bond bears date on the 16th Jany 1786 and one other bond of the same date for the Sum of six hundred & seventy nine pounds fifteen Shilling & five pence like Sterling money and payable on the first day of April 1777 as he prefered in the face

¹From Governor's Papers—State Series, XVIII (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), Alexander Martin, I (1790-1791, January 4-July 8), March 4, 1790.

²The State leaders of North Carolina thought that it could pay its Revolutionary War debts by profits realized from trading tobacco. Large amounts were purchased and stored in private warehouses, such as the one owned by the Blounts. The legislature decided to sell the tobacco and Benjamin Hawkins and William Blount, Delegates to Congress, made the contract with Constable Rucker & Company for the purchase of the tobacco. John Stuart was sent by Constable Rucker & Company to collect tobacco after the above transaction and it is quite possible that this was a part of the earlier transaction. See Alice B. Keith, "William Blount in North Carolina Politics, 1781-1789," in *Studies in Southern History*, edited by J. Carlyle Sitterson (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957), pages 54-56.

³From Legislative Papers, 98, House of Commons, 1790 (December 1-15), November 29.

⁴The legislature had become suspicious of the integrity of William Blount and consequently began to dig up any accounts which might be the least bit questionable. Ogg's testimony is in connection with the legislature's questioning. The Blounts were less secure in this body than in the earlier years when Richard Caswell and other warm personal friends were running the State. Chief among the new leaders in power was Thomas Person, a powerful force in the West faction, the political group directly opposed to the East where the Blounts were very strong.

of the bond but which as this Deponant Conceivs to be a Mistake in the writing of the Bond, as he this Deponant was present at the time that the contract was made between the s^d Blount & Ward & when the goods were Delivered & the Bonds before mentiond were taken & well remembers that the agreement between the s^d parties was that that the first to wit that for £329,19,2 was to have been paid on the first day of april then next Insuing & the other one for £649.20.5 was to have been paid on the first of april 1727, to both of which before mention Bond he this Deponant was a witness & did then believe the time of payment mentioned in s^d bond was according to the agreement of s^d parties and never discovered the contrary till the last Evening when it was presented him by the Committe when to his great astonishment he Discovered that the larger bond mentioned to be paid on s^d april 1777 when the bond bears date Jany 1786, but this Deponant Deposseseth that those two bonds above mentioned & which were presented him by the Committe are the two Identical bonds taken by the s^d Blount of the s^d Ward at the time and [3] place above mentioned and for and on account of the Goods wares & etc so sold by the s^d Blount & purchased by the s^d Ward and at no other time & for no Other use or purpose than what is above mentioned, so far as this deponant knows & verily believes and further this Deponant saith Not

GEO. OGG

Sworn to before Me at Fayetteville this 29th
day of Novbr. 1790
1790

Deposition of Geo. Ogg, respecting Goods
sold by W^m Blount agent for N^o. C^a. & etc.

Jno. Williams Pro ClC [Pro. Clerk of Court, sic]

Subpoena to Thomas Blount⁵

May 21, 1792

May the 21st day 1792. Then receiv'd of M^r Hustings a Supena from the Superior Court of Law for the Destrict of Hillsborough,

⁵This is probably in relation to the Representation of John Gray Blount for William Blount, December 14, 1792, page 641, below.

to summon Tho^s. Blount Esqr. of Edgecomb County as Garnishee in a Suit there defending the State against William Blount Esqr. to be returned to the next Superior Court to be held for said district on the Sixth day of October next R^{cd}. P^r.

BENJ^m. A DICKEN Sheff
of Edgcomb County

1792

B Dicken Shff
Edgcomb Dist for
Tho. Blount Subpeona
21st May 1792

*William Blount's Account with the State with Extracts from
the Treasury Books, September 28, 1792⁶*

Having investigated the Treasury Books⁷ relative to the written charge of 150,000 Dollars, as also the accounts of W. Blount pertaining to the claims of N. Carolina against the U. States, and finding in an account Settled by W. Blount with the general assembly in May 1780 he had passed to the Credit of Said State the Said Sum of 150,000 dollars which was admitted by the assembly accordingly, examining carefully likewise whether the State might not have heretofore been charged with the same money, and no debit appearing which would bear that construction, it follows of course that the State ought to be debitted & W Blount receive a corresponding Credit, I have therefore admitted this transposition to be made on the Books of the Treasury, and that it may operate as a set off against so much of the claim of North Carolina against the United States.

PHILADELPHIA 28th September, 1792

A C. THOMAS, Agt.
of
State of N. Carolina

⁶From Certificates of Elections, 1792, and Other Papers Undated. With Extracts from the Treasury Books, September 28, 1792 (State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh).

⁷The account with the extracts from the Treasury Books is evidently related to the action described on page 637*n.* 4, above.

Wm Blount Pay M^s Gen^l N^o Carolina

1778

To the United States

Oct. 20 To a Wart. in Favour of the Pay Master to the Board of War for the Sum to be transmitted for the Pay D of the Levies recommended to be put to Charleston agreeable to Resolution of Congress of this date 150.000

Dollars

TREASURY DEPT. REGISTERS OFFICE

26 Sep^r. 1792

I Certify that the foregoing is a true Extract from the Treasury Books—M^r. Blount is also debeted in Law Books to Joseph Clay for 954.000 Dollars, under date 13th December 1786

JOSEPH NOWYE Rgs

*Message from Governor William Blount to the Frontier
Inhabitants of North Carolina^s*

October 2, 1792

KNOXVILLE

Gentlemen,

No doubt you who are so immediately interested in the event of a Cherokee and Creek War are anxious to be informed of the conduct and intentions of those two Nations.

On the 11th of September the Little Turkey and the other principal Chiefs of the uper Cherokee Towns gave me Information in writing that the five tower Towns of the Cherokees were for War against the United States and that every other part of their Nation was for peace—And three days past the Hanging Maw and other Chiefs of the uper Towns were with me at this place and gave assurances to the same purport.

Good policy as well as my own feelings have induced me to recommend to the Frontier Inhabitants of this Territory to treat that part of the Cherokee Nation which have declared for peace in the same friendly manner as if no part had declared for War and permit me Gentlemen to extend that recommendation to you also and to request you to continue that friendly intercourse

^sGovernor's Papers, XIX, October 2, 1792. The reason for the appearance of this paper in the official documents of North Carolina is not entirely evident. It might have been simply for the information of the Governor of North Carolina, or he might have wanted the information spread to the settlers on the North Carolina frontier by the Governor.

with that part of the Nation which is adjacent to you in the manner you have heretofore done so long as that part shall continue their friendship for the United States.

I have now Gentlemen to inform you that twelve days past about five hundred Creeks passed the Tennessee at or near the five lower towns on their way to Cumberland that from one to two hundred Warriors of those towns joined the party [2]

Cumberland was forewarned of their intended invasion and it is hoped will meet and repulse them before they reach the settlements it is uncertain what part they will next attack if it is this I am prepared for them and if I should receive Information that it is against your quarter I shall give you notice—I have the Honor to be with great respect

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

Knoxville October 2nd 1792

*The Representation of John Gray Blount for William Blount⁹
December 14, 1792*

To the Honb^{le} the General Assembly

The representation of John Gray Blount for W^m Blount
Sheweth

That on this 31 day of December 1782 William Blount joined James Arants in a Bond to the state as his security for the payment of \$278 the prices of three Pieces of Land leid off by James Avants at the sales of Confiscated Property made by Benjamin Sheppard Esqr. Commissioner for Newbern District vis—One piece late the Property of Edw. B. Dobbs at £141

another piece late the property of Thomas Tyre 37

and one other late the property of Thomas Torrans 100

as will appear by the Copy of the Bond herewith

That suit was commenced against William Blount on the aforesaid Bond (James Avants being insolvent) and he made it appear, that the land late the property of Edward Brice Dobbs had been again sold by James Armstrong Esqr. the successor in office to Benj^r Sheppard under a Resolution of the Gen^l

⁹From Legislative Papers, 118 (Senate, December 14-January 1), December 14, 1792.

Assembly authorising him so to do where the Law under Shepart sales had not been fully complied with, and obtained credit for the amount thereof;

He then paid into the Treasury the sum of £130 in Certificates being the [2] £15 two thirds of the amount of the other two tracts, and confess'd a Judgment for £65 the ballance over which Judgment was stayed agreeable to Law; with an expectation that the Gen Assembly in so plain a Case would grant him relief on his making it appear to them that the other two Tracts had been sold He petitioned them at their siting in 1790 and the Petition was refer'd to a Committee who investigated the matter, and recommended the prayer for relief, but for what reason I cannot tell, the Report was rejected by the House

Impress'd with a belief that it cannot be the wish of the Gen. Assembly to withhold from an Individual his money paid into their Treasury for property which they have again sold, conveyed, and received payment to a much larger amount than the first sale.

I have taken the liberty of once more soliciting that Justice from them which in this instance is not obtainable in any other way And pray that you will be pleased to direct the Treasurer to refund the Certificates by him received with Interest from the time of receiving them And also the Sum of Sixty five pounds ten shillings & 8^d. in money which I has the Treasurers Rect. Put to show he has paid And he is in only bound will pray

J. G. BLOUNT

Petition of John G Blount

for

William Blount

In Senate 14th Dec^r. 1792 read & referred to the Committee on public Bills.—

J Haywood

In House of Commons 14, December 1792

read and referred as by the Senate

By order

J Hunt

Blackledge

*Protests of Thomas Blount¹⁰**January 1, 1793*

To explain my reason for voting for the plan adopted for dividing the State into districts for the purpose of electing Representatives to Congress on motion of Mr McDowell to substitute another in its place which without explanation might to some appear somewhat inconsistent.

I have to observe that tho that plan offer'd by Mr McDowell carried in its face more the appearance of Justice with regard to numbers, than the one for which I then voted, it did not in any degree remedy the great injustice complained of to the Commercial Interest but on the contrary encreased it by planing the two Sea Port towns of New bern & Washington in the same district & it is well known that between every two Sea Ports there is a natural competition which makes the Representative of either the most improper person in the world to represent the other—and further it proposed to add the County of Carteret which includes Occacoak Bar to the Wilmington District by which means the protection & representation [2] of two rival Inlets or Ports was to have been committed to one man whose election would not in the smallest degree have depended on the people of Carteret County—which for the reason above stated respecting the competition between Sea port towns, I deemed highly improper & unjust

THOS BLOUNT
JAMES JASPER
1 Jany. 1793—

Thos Blount's
Protest—

Protest of Thos. Blount with Reply of Eleven Members†
January 1, 1793

I protest against the Act of this General Assembly for dividing the _____ into districts for the purpose of electing Representatives to Congress for the following Reasons viz:

¹⁰From Legislative Papers 115, House of Commons December 18—January 1, 1793. The two following "Protests" are taken from the same source.

†From Legislative Papers, 118 (Senate, December 14—January 1), December 14, 1792.

1st Because the districts were formed with a view only to the [State] Interests of particular Individuals without regard to the Rights & Conveniences of the People at large, or the general Interest of the State, by a faction of tyrannical majority confederated for the purpose of reviving & perpetuating that party spirit which has so much confused & long disgraced the Legislative proceedings of this State & which I had so fondly hoped was buried in eternal oblivion by an act of the last General Assembly for fixing the Seat of Government.¹¹

2nd Because, by giving to the people living on Cape fear River *Two* Representatives for 53.763 Electors and only *Three* to the people living on Tar River, Roanoak & the waters of Albermarle Sound for 131.021 (which fully appears by the subjoined [copy of] arrangement of Counties to form the Districts as they stand in the Law with the number of Electors contained in each affixed) [2] An invidious distinction is made between fellow Citizens entitled to equal privileges to the great & manifest Injury & disparagement of the most numerous part—which is a Policy altogether incompatible with the Genius of a Republican Government & must in its consequences be productive of Feuds & animosities which real Statesmen & honest Legislators would always sedulously endeavor to avert.—

3rd Because the people immediately Interested in the commerce of the port of Washington, upon claim to Legislative attention & encouragement is founded on a more extensive commerce carried on by our own native Citizens than is carried on by Persons of that description in any other port in the State, have been so disposed of in the arrangement of Counties to form Districts of Election that they are in effect deprived of their Right of suffrage in the choice of a man to represent them in the Congress of the United States it being impossible from the paucity of their numbers in comparison with the numbers of those with whom they are joined on Roanoak River, for them to vote with effect for a man whose local situation binds [3] him to their Interest, which is so materially different from that of the People of Roanoak that the man who is in all respects a fit Representative of the one, may & must be a very unfit to Represent the other—all which was so often & so forcibly urged

¹¹He probably has reference to the political division, the West, which would use the threat of moving the capital to gain political advantage in the legislature. In fact, Blount assumes that the districting was designed to oust him from office, and in face of the intense rivalry of the two sections, he might have been right.

by the Representatives in this General Assembly of the people of both places; that if the majority of the Legislature had not been pre-determined to sacrifice the Commercial Interest of the State in General & of that part in particular & withal profligate & daring enough to pull down the Barriers of Justice, to trample on the Constitution & to invade with insult the dearest Rights of a free people, merely to gratify their own inordinate desire to oppress an Individual who derives pleasure from having made himself the object of their hatred by a long continued & uniform opposition to their detestable measures, they never could have consented to, or proposed such an arrangement—

4thly Because in some of the districts the number of Electors or persons entitled by the Constitution of the United States to representation is short [4] of 30,000 and it is therefore my opinion that the people of those districts are incompetent to the choice of a Representative.

5thly Because a plan for dividing the State into districts formed to embrace both agricultural & commercial Interests in due proportion & with proper regard to contiguity & numbers in each & every County was offer'd by Mr. Stone, as appears by the Journal of the House of Commons in which it is stated at large & rejected—altho' many members in the majority, (I believe I might say three fifths of them) as Individuals, acknowledged it to be strictly Just.

6thly Because the Right given to the people by the Constitution of the United States to elect whom they please possessing certain qualifications therein expressed, to Represent them in Congress, is infringed by a clause in this Act which requires that the Person elected shall reside within the district for which he is Elected at the time of his Election & have resided therein twelve months next preceding the day of Election.

THOS BLOUNT

1 Jan'y 1793

We the undersigned having heard the above protest of Thomas Blount Esq. read in this House, do declare, that the assertion respecting the number of members who voted on the Mecklenburg Bill, is unfounded [a section was crossed out here.

This seems to be the meaning.]—for, that 61 persons were members including the Speaker, were present & *did* vote thereon

Signed by Eleven persons

W^m. Porter
James G. Knight
John Lewis Taylor
Basil Gaither
J. Shepperd
James Taylor
Alex M^cLane
Tho Henderson
B^{nj}. Jones
George Hause
T Nash

Protests of Thos. Blount

January 2, 1793

I protest against the proceedings relative to the Division of Mecklenburgh County for the following Reasons, Viz

first, Because the Bill for that purpose was taken up reconsidered & passed by the Senate some weeks after they had rejected it & given notice of the rejection by message to the House of Commons in open violation of an article in the Rules of each House which expressly declares that "No Bill shall be introduced after it has been rejected or laid over until next Session"

2nd Because the message from the Senate to the Commons informing them that they had reconsidered amended & passed this Bill & sent it for the concurrence—was concurr'd with by less than a majority of the whole House—there being but seventy members present including the Speaker when the majority was Sixty-one—of course if the Bill had been properly before the House the House was not competent to pass it, but I contend & assert that

it was not in the possession of the House & that all proceedings [2] thereon in both Houses were unconstitutional & execrable

THOS BLOUNT
2 Jany. 1793

Mr Hall one of the Tellers was ready to swear that the number was only 60.

Protest of Tho Blount

*Report of Committee on Elections,
House of Commons¹² (16 May 1793)*

Your Committee of Privileges and Elections to whom was referred the memorial of John Tilman of Craven County Report, That it appear to your Committee that some Irregularities happened in conducting the said Election, That the greatest part of the Tickets were counted out of Boxes before the pole were closed and that Sundry persons applied to give in their Votes and were refused before sundown or before the pole was closed

It appears to your Committee that Mr. William Bryan had so great a Majority of Votes that all those who were refused their Vote (if admitted against him) could not have decided the election against him—Your Committee are therefore of Opinion that Mr. Bryan should retain his Seat [2] But that the Same persons thus Deprived of the privilege of Voting if admitted to Vote against Mr. [William sic] Blount might have Decided the Election against him—Your Committee are therefore of Opinion that Mr. Blounts Election ought to be Set aside It further appears to your Committee that Mr. Blount was appointed one of the Delegates to represent this State in Congress for one year which was not expired at the time of the Election,¹³ and that by the 13th Section of an Act for directing the mode of Electing

¹²Legislative Papers 48, House of Commons May 16, 1793.

¹³This report is a bit confusing in light of some of the facts. John Gray Blount was mentioned as a member of Congress. Were they thinking of Thomas Blount? The reference to the election is undoubtedly to that of Beaufort County, which is described in these papers, but which was brought to the attention of the legislature by a Craven man.

members of the General Assembly; Delegates in Congress of the united States are not Eligible as Members of General Assembly All which is Submitted

THOMAS PERSON CHC

16 May 1783 [1793, sic]

Editorial on the Beaufort County Elections of 1793¹⁴

We understand that no election of members of the House of Commons had been had at Beaufort, owing to a riot which took place at the time of counting the ballots. The candidates were John G. Blount, Charles Crawford, John Kennedy and Frederick Grist—It seems the election had been conducted with considerable warmth on both sides and was likely to terminate in favour of Mess [Messrs.] Blount and Crawford, when, having counted within 72 votes of the whole number given in, a general battle ensued and the Commons box was destroyed. Each party accuses the other of an intention to break the box—it is believed, however, that neither had at first such a design, but that “*Rum and the Devil accomplished it.*”

Excerpts from William Kennedy's Reply to the Editor's Report of the Beaufort County Election of 1793¹⁵

There are two separate places of election in the county, one at Dividing Creeks and the other in Washington—and there were also two boxes for the reception of the commoner tickets On the day before election below, J.G. Blount conceiving that B. [Bryan] Blount and Crawford, the men whom he proposed, would not be elected, declared himself a candidate in the place of B. Blount. Blount and Crawford were repeatedly requested to agree in having the tickets counted out before sunset, who after reiterated solicitations, eventually consented that the tickets of the lower box might be counted; wherein there appeared 63 votes for Crawford more than Kennedy. The Sheriff then proceeded to count the suffrages of the upper box [There

¹⁴From *North Carolina Journal*, September 4, 1792.

¹⁵*North Carolina Journal*, November 27, 1793.

were two places or polls for the election—one at Dividing Creek, and the other at Washington, and there were also two boxes] when about sunset, a man who had been twice or thrice refused by the Inspectors was brought forward to vote by the party of Blount and Crawford, which party were in a moment armed with clubs, ascended the table whereon stood the box exclaiming with imprecations, menacing and denouncing vengeance against one of the inspectors who fled for safety and protection—This was the prelude to their detestable scheme—for amidst this seditious tumult, down they knocked the box, and partly bursted one side thereof. Sometime after the sheriff recovered the box, and sent for a candle, when the Clerks declared the difference between Kennedy and Crawford to be reduced to 28. The sheriff again proceeded to tell the suffrages, while the said party with their clubs continued on the table. When Kennedy and Crawford were about even, in an instant the candle was extinguished, and the box crushed to pieces. At which time, agreeable to the aforesaid computation, there remained untold 72 votes; That the election would have ended in favour of Kennedy was obvious—without this party appearing with clubs or any weapon of defense¹⁶

*Thomas Jefferson to the Merchants of New Bern, August 27, 1793
with Resolves of the Merchants of New Bern, September 19, 1793*

PHILADELPHIA August 27th 1793

Gentlemen

Complaint having been made to the Government of the United States of some unjustifiable vexation and Spoliation committed on our merchant Vessels by the privateers of the Powers at War, and it being possible that other instances may have happened of which no information has been given to the Government, I have it in charge from the President to assure the merchants of the United States concerned in foreign commerce or navigation that due attention will be paid to any injuries they may suffer on the high seas or in foreign Countries contrary to

¹⁶Kennedy in his reply, refers to a story in the *State Gazette* which was apparently very similar to that in the *Journal*. He adds: "Whereby the natural inference is that the party of Kennedy and Grist destroyed the box." But he will set the matter straight. See other letters from Kennedy to John Gray Blount in this volume.

the law of nations, or to existing treaties and that on their forwarding hither well authenticated evidence of the same proper proceedings will be adopted for their relief. The just and friendly dispositions of the several belligerent Powers afford well founded expectation that they will not hesitate to take effectual measures for restraining their armed Vessells from committing aggressions and vexations on our Citizens or their property.

There being no particular portion or description of the mercantile body pointed out by the laws for receiving communications of this nature, I take the liberty of addressing it to the merchants of Newbern for the State of North Carolina and of requesting that through them it may be made known to all those of their State whom it may concern. Information will be freely received [2] received either from the individuals aggrieved or from any associations of merchants who will be pleased to take the trouble of giving it in a case so interesting to themselves and their country.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient Servant

The Merchants of Newbern

Nº. Carolina

(Signed) THO. JEFFERSON

NEW BERN September 19th 1793

Sirs

In conformity to a Resolve of the Merchants of this Town, We their Committee do chearfully (here annexed) forward a Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of State for the United States, in order that it may through you be communicated to the Merchants of Washington, and do as willingly hold ourselves in readiness to join our endeavours with theirs to accomplish the object of it

Happy in the reflection that the Belligerent Powers shew a friendly disposition towards the United States, We have the honor to be

Gentlemen with regard
Your most humble servants

J^s. GUION
JOHN DEVEREAX
JA^s. MCKINLAY
JAMES DAVIS
THO. TURNER

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John Gray Blount,
John Simpson
Merchants
Washington

*The Memorial of Richard Dobbs Spaight to the Town of
New Bern¹⁷*

December 27, 1793

North Carolina

To the honorable the General Assembly

The memorial of Richard Dobbs Spaight of the Town of
New Bern

Showeth.

That in the year 1776. The Assembly of the then Province of North Carolina, passed an act entitled "An Act for erecting a convenient building within the Town of New Bern, for the residence of the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being—" In consequence of which several Lots and fronts of Lots, in the Town of New Bern the property of your Memorialist then a minor, was taken by the public for the purpose of erecting the said building. Your Memorialist further states that he has never received any value for the said Lots and fronts, nor was there at that time in the Province, any person authorized or empowered to sell and convey the said property nor hear your Memorialist since his coming of age, given any title to the public [2] or by any means whatever relinquished his claim thereto, but has on the contrary at divers times peti-

¹⁷This is interesting in relation to origin of the governor's palace in New Bern.

tioned the General Assembly for redress, having no other remedy in his power, but by applying to their justice.

As the General Assembly are hereafter to assemble at the city of Raleigh, it is probable that the said Lots will not be any longer retained for the uses for which they were originally taken by the public. Your Memorialist therefore hopes that on taking the peculiar situation of his case into consideration you will grant him redress by restoring to him the Lots which were taken from him without his consent and without his having received any value for them

The property taken from your Memorialist, consists in the following Lots and fronts—to wit—Lots N^o 27 & 28 on Front Street and their Fronts, 21 feet of Lot N^o 29 on Front Street and 21 feet of the front thereof and the Lots N^o 101 and N^o 194 on Metcalf Street a reference being had to the plot of the Palace Lots [3] and the minutes of the proceedings of the Court of Craven County, which accompany this, will make it fully appear.

Your Memorialist confiding in the Wisdom of the Legislature and satisfied that they will never do injustice knowingly to any individual of the community flatters himself that in the present instance he will have that justice done to him which will be consistant with the rules of Equity and good conscience.

RICH^d DOBBS SPAIGHT

Fayetteville

Dec^r 27th 1793

Petition of Rich^d Dobbs Spaight

In House of Commons 28^h Dec 1793 read
& refered to M^r Blount M^r Person & Mr
Porter

By order

J Hunt C H C

In Senate 28th Dec^r

1793, read & referred to Mr Hayett, Mr
Williams of Caswell & M. M^cDowell

By order

J Haywood C

J Blount

*John Hall's Proposed Land Agreement*¹⁸*February 6, 1793*

Memorandum of agreement Entered into this 6th day of February 1794—Between John Hall now of the City of Philadelphia of the one part and John G. Blount of the State of North Carolina and the Town of Washington of the other part. Witnesseth the said Hall being desirous to obtain Grants for Lands any where they may be Obtainable in the State of North Carolina at the rates affixed by the Laws of said State and agreeing to furnish all the monies to bring the same into Grants, at such different periods as may be requested by said Blount for the full compliance of the business—and also said Hall agrees to interest said Blount in all such Lands as may be procured as far as one Eight—which is to considered the property of said Blount for his particular attention in Superintending the business and which part he is to hold without advancing any payment in return Supposing the nett Sales of one Eight of the said Lands when made by said Hall to be remitted said Blount as only adequate for said Blounts trouble—All Expences whatever in obtaining and selling the Lands to be at the Expence of said Hall—said Blount acknowledges now to have received Eleven Hundred and forty dollars Silver Dollars of said Hall to be appropriated for said purposes—1140 dollars

In whitness whereof I have hereunto set my Test
Hand & Seal this day & date aforesaid

BENJⁿ. BLACKLEDGE

J HALL

JGBLOUNT

Agreement

John Hall

for Land

with his letter

of Instructions

Re^c. Bank Note in my name1000 Doll.ditto for dinnish [illegible]1000 D^o.

2000

Mr. Hall

Agreement

¹⁸Consult the Index to this volume for references to land transactions between Hall and John Gray Blount. An agreement was made between them which probably followed the lines set forth by Hall here.

*Presentment of the Grand Jury of Fayette District
October Term, 1794*

North Carolina)
Fayette Ville District)

SUPERIOR COURT
Oct^o. Term 1794

The grand Jury cannot pass unnoticed the able Spirited & diligent attention the quick releasing & dispatching manner with which the Business of the Present Term has been Conducted without their warmest acknowledgements to the Court

The Grand Jury find it their duty to Present as guilty of public grievances & unsufferable monopoly those Land Jobbers who have accumulated to themselves the Vacant Lands of this State That no individual is entitled to engross Vast quantity of Land we think for the following reason Vizt

1st. Because we conceive the vacant Land of this State have been reserved at the present Moderate rates of entries for the Convenience of her own citizens gradually to extend their possession & provide for the rising Generation, not for the object of Monopoly to increase the fortunes of a few Individuals whilst the Speculation prevents the State from Diriving further Benefits from their Lands preportionate to our future increase of Wealth & population

2nd. Because it will prevent Migration it will be flagrant. Intimidation that Europiens will Leave their Native Land or Soil [2] Soil to become Tenants in a Foreign Land

3rd Because it will inevitably create a Multitude of poor dependants & Consequently enrich the few and oppress the many

4th Because the Despricators of those Lands will have Legions of Tenants who eventually will be Led thro misery Indigence & distress to look upon their Land Lords as they do in Europe infallable revere them as Sacred & worship them as Gods

5th Because it will tend to establish an Imperious and unconstitutional Nobility which will ultimately [lead to] an elective mode of appointment to a Hereditary Successions of Officers

6th Because it will Operate to distroy the Privilidges of elections by Concentraling the Subservant votes threw one Focus the Corruption of which will weaken & relax the nerves of Government, impede its motion disorder and Convultionate [sic] its

Constitution absorb its Liberties & destroy our rights, it Will be the Nurse of Tyranny & the death of Justice

These are our reasons and we much fear they will be as true as they are alarming

Those who have entered into the Land Speculation in this district we believe to be John Gray Blount, Richard Blackledge, John Willis, Jacob Rhodes, James Porterfield, John Porterfield, James Carraway, George Ogg and Daniel Wheaton—

We further present as our Opinion that the outmost attention to the Conduct of the Entry Takers and County Surveyors as necessary that the Law regarding their Several Offices be Punctually Complied with & that the Monies arising from the Land office in the different Counties within our District be faithfully accounted for In the like manner we present as the duty of Executive when the entries appears to be so alarming an amount to withhold Grants for the Same till he Shall have enquired Whether the Existing Land office Laws have been fully Complied with in the Premisses or untill the further pleasure of the Legislature, therein Shall be Known whose Interfearance we hope will be a means of Exterpiling those antipodes of equality

M. Thomas Overton	Foreman	M. John Sheppard
A. Charles Henson		M. William Martin
C William Theams		C Isaac McLung [sic]
C Stephen Gilmore		C Malich Burges
R ^a . Robert Hales		R ^d . James Smith
A Muiel Bennet		R ^d . W Slaughter
A Frederick Gordon		R ^a . Albritain Drake
A Daniel Murphy		A W. Wood (alias Smockey)
C. Hector Macllister		M. Nicholas Hall

[On back of document]

Presentment of the

Grand Jury of

Fayette District

Octo. Term 1794

Jⁿ. B^{te}. Dewaux to John Gray Blount¹⁹

BALTIMORE 27 May 1795

Sir

I beg you to render me the service of having sent to me a copy of my naturalization certificate which is found in the minutes of Colonel Brown who lived then at Balt. and before whom I took the oath

I do not remember at all the date but it will be easy to learn it by looking for the time when the ship was sent to Washington by Capt. Guis. I was naturalized some time before.

Colonel Brown had promised to give me the certificate, but I neglected to ask him for it at the time. This piece will be very necessary to me in this circumstance and I do not doubt that you will be kind enough to send it to me by the first good opportunity which will be presented to you for this city. I beg you to join to it the amount of your expenses in order that I may turn it over to the bearer.

I await this kind attention on your part and beg you to believe the one who [has] the honor of being

Sir

Your very humble and very
obedient servant

Jⁿ. B^{te}. DEWAUX

Please address your letter
to Mr. Jacob Knab, tailor in
this city.

*Contract Between Gabriel Ragsdale²⁰ and Others
June 20, 1795*

State of North Carolina
Buncombe County—

Know all Men by these presents that we Gabriel Ragsdale, John Carson & Henry McKenny are held and firmly bound unto John Patton Surveyor of the County of Buncombe in the penal sum of two thousand four Hundred Ninety Seven [pounds] ten

¹⁹Translated for this volume by Professor Quentin O. McAllister.

²⁰As this letter indicates, Ragsdale was one of the most active surveyors of western lands for the Blounts. See the Petition of Gabriel Ragsdale, July 15, 1795, page 658, below.

shillings & three pence current money, to which payment is all & truly to be made and done we bind Our selves Our Heirs Executors administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents signed with our Seal & dated this 20th day of June 1795

The Condition of this Obligation is such that if the above bounded Gabriel Ragsdale John Carson and Henry McKinny shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said John Patton Surveyor of the County of Buncombe the Sum of twelve Hundred and forty eight pounds fifteen Shillings payable on or before the first Day of November next, then the above Obligation to be void, otherwise to remain and be in full force & Virtue. The above Sum the said John Patton agreed to take in full Compensation for giving to the said Gabriel Ragsdale a Deputation to Survey for John Grey Blount all Lands he has heretofore entered in the Entry Office of Buncombe County—and in Case of the Death or inability of the said Gabriel Ragsdale which may put it out of his [power, sic] to compleat the Surveys afore-said for the said John Gray Blount or the said Ragsdale delivering to the said John Patton the Deputation he has this day received of him and he the said Patton to Deputize any person who the said John Grey Blount shall nominate for that purpose of compleating his Surveys, on their giving Bond & sufficient Security faithfully & lawfully to survey, & compleat the same, Given under Our hands & Seals this Day & dates above written—
interlined lined before assigned

Signed Sealed & delivered
in present off—

W. W.
J. H.

A Copy

H. M. ^[c] K	SEAL
J. C.	SEAL
G. R.	SEAL

Abstract of indorsed		March 11th 1796 I hereby certify that I have received full
June 21st—	£36	satisfaction for what the In-
Oct. 20th 1795	—50	terest of this written Obliga-
Dec. 3 ^d 1795	300	tion may amount to in Six
March 11 th 1796	150	months from that 11 th day of
Sept. 9th	71.10	March 1796
Oct. 18 th by Ad ^m Cooper	100	certified by me
	<u>£707.10</u>	W ^m . Davidson

A Copy

Amt. of the principal of this

Bond without Interest	£1248.15
Amt of Payee	707.10
Ballance of principal) without Interest.)	<u>£541.5.</u>

10th Feby 1799. This day the post sets off to Salem, and is the first post day I have been at Home since my Return from Raleigh—and I now hasten to inclose you the Copy I thare [sic] promised you—

Dear Sir believe me to be with great respect your very Obed^t
Hble Sarv^t.

WRIGHTSTILL AVERY

John Grey Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esqr.

PostMaster

Town of Washington

on Tar River

Free

North Carolina

*Petition of Gabriel Ragsdale, Agent of
John Gray Blount*

July 15, 1795

North Carolina)

)

Burke County) The Petition of Gabriel Ragsdale as agent
for John Gray Blount entered in the Land Office of Buncombe
County. One million and Twenty four thousand Acres of Land

in the name and to the use of the said John Gray Blount which entries were made in the month of February last on Land which your petitioner conceives was actually vacant and unappropriated and as Specially located as any quantity of Land of that magnitude could be located and your petitioner has since the making the entries aforesaid been informed that Joseph Dobson of Burke County has Surveyed a considerable quantity of the Land entered by your petitioner for said John G. Blount By virtue of warrants made by his own hands under pretence of there being entries made by him in the Office or otherwise the Books of Entry Kept by his said father deceased which Books & papers your petitioner has lately been informed said Joseph Dobson has now in possession which your petitioner has been informed that he continues to make entries in & in many instances have delved the names of [the, sic] persons entering and in lieu thereof inserted his own name—your Petitioner has been informed that he has in many instances informed some of the Citizens of Buncombe County if they wanted any of the Speculators Lands that he would make them a warrant if they would mark any tree with the two first letters of their names—Your petitioner has likewise been informed that he the said Dobson has in many instances committed the most atrocious frauds in the Books Kept by his Father in his life time much to the Damage of many of the Good Citizens of Burke & Buncomb County and the Court of Burk has not deprived the said Dobson of the said Books. but as I am informed has them yet in his possession—Therefore your petitioner prays that your Excellency will please to suspend the Execution of any Grant made out in the name of the said Joseph Dobson. By virtue of any warrant that may appear to be surveyed since the [2] the first of February last issued from the Office of Burke & Surveyed [in] Buncomb County as it is the Opinion of your petitioner that any frauds will appear when the Entry Books are Taken out of the hands of said Dobson which are liable to be taken from him now in a few days in Obedience of an Act of Last Session to cover his Case as well as others in a Similar situation & your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

His Excellency
R D. SPAIGHT Esqr

from your Hum Servt
G. RAGSDALE

No. Carolina)
)

Burke County) This day personally appeared Gabriel Ragsdale before me subscribing Justice of the Peace for the County of Burke for Oath sayeth that the facts set forth is Just & true to the best of his Knowledge & belief. Subscribed & Sworn to this 15th day of July 1795—

G. RAGSDALE

J. H. Stereilie [sic], J. P.
 State of No. Carolina

To James Glasgow Esq. Secretary. you are hereby notified that I have suspended the Execution of the Grant for the within mentioned lands. agreeable to the prayer of the deponent which you will Certify to the Justices of the County agreeable to Law New bern Sep 8, 1795

R D SPAIGHT

By Command

Frans Hawks. pro Secy

North Carolina Lands entered for the Blounts and their Associates²¹

County Entered	Quantity	Titles secured and sent to D.A.	Titles secured and not sent to D.A.	Amount on the way through the office	Per 100 acres
Richmond	200,320	185,600	14,720	—	30/
Robeson	126,220	126,220	—	—	30/
Ditto	139,960	—	—	124,940	30/
Bladen	200,320	198,842	1,540	—	30/
Cumberland	326,400	284,381	10,266	—	30/
Montgomery	163,200	73,600	28,800	—	30/
Moore	256,000	175,185	54,710	—	30/
Brunswick	98,840	—	—	—	30/
Duplin	100,480	—	—	—	30/
Onslow	200,320	160,368	—	—	30/
Carteret	81,290	—	—	—	30/
Carteret	105,600	64,265	—	—	50/
Jones	64,000	—	—	—	30/
Ditto	21,760	—	—	2,244	30/
Jones	42,000	—	—	—	50/
Craven	40,800	—	—	—	50/
Lenoir	19,200	—	—	—	50/

²¹The caption is supplied for a list of lands bearing the date of July 2, 1795 in the Blount Papers.

This table is reproduced from Alice Barnwell Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers in Business and Politics, 1783-1812* (An unpublished Dissertation for the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill), 283. For further listings see in the same reference, "John Gray Blount's Lands 1785-1796," page 287.

Your petitioner further Showeth that he has just cause to believe that Thomas Davidson former entry taken of said County has issued or is about to issue land warrants obtained to a very considerable amount which your petitioner believes from the most authentick information never was actually entered which your petitioner has just cause to believe is intended to [appropriate, sic] part of the land entered in said county by your petitioner & per[ticularly, sic] of those entered by other worthy Citisens of this State—your petitioner further showeth that from a copy of the said Davidsons report biled in the Comptrolers Office on Oath it appears the whole return of entries made in his Office in the year 1793 did not exceed the number of 35 in which warrants issued in the month of September in that year he publicly reported—that his books Kept by him in the year 1792 & 1793 2343 accidentally consumed to ashes and it appears from the Copy of his return in the Comptrollers Office made on Oath to the best of his knowledge the number of warrants he had issued did not exceed 35. containing in the whole 4750 acres your petitioner further Sheweth that from the most creditable witness that he the said Thomas Davidson did since his resignation from the Office of Entry Taker issued warrants for 50,000 acres of land on which your petitioner has been creditably informed a Grant has issued which warrants your petitioner has every reason to believe issued without there ever being any Entry actually made for the same [2] Your Petitioner has been informed from the most creditable information that the said Thomas Davidson is now in arrears to your Treasury not less that of £1000 which your petitioner has every Reason to believe he has not any intention ever to discharge as he has in many instances issued warrants that your petitioner believes was never entered to men of the most abandoned Character—Therefore his Excellency the Governor will please to suspend the Execution of any Grant that may be made out in consequence of any Entry or Entries surveyer in large bodys by verture of any warrants issued by said Thomas Davidson dated in the year 1793 as it is the firm belief of your petitioner that all the warrants he has fraudulently issued are antdated back to the year 1793—under a pretence of there being entered in those books consumed by fire as the Books kept by him in the year 1794 are now in the hands of the present entry taker & contains [many, sic] en[tries] whereas large Surveys can in the Opinion of your [petitio]ner be made as

all those entries appear to be in the names of a number of the Citizens of Burke, Rutherford & Buncomb permiscuesly entered as was the usual method of entering land before what was termed Speculation reached this part of the State—Your petitioner further sheweth that he believes it to be the manifest wish of a number of the worthy inhabitants of this part of the State that the said Davidson ought to be brought to Justice to answer for his fraudulent conduct which is likely to tend much to the loss of your petitioner—your petitioner further Sheweth that it is from a sence of the Fraudulent conduct of said Davidson as well as his own preservation that he is impressed with the necessity of presenting your Excellency with this petition . . . which if Granted your petitioner will indeauty bound Ever pray—

From your Humble

Servt—

His Excellency

Richard Dobbs Spaight

North Carolina)

)

Burke County) This day personally appeared John Carson Esqr. before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace & upon Oath sayeth that the facts set forth in the above Petition is Just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief—Subscribed & Sworn to this day 15th of July 1795

J. H. STEREILIE J P.—

JNO CARSON—

State of No Carolina

To James Glasgow Esq. Secretary you are hereby notified that I have suspended the execution of the Grant for the within mentioned land agreeably to the prayer of [the, sic] Deponant which you will certify to the Justice of [this, sic] County according to Law. Newbern Sep. 8 1795

By Command

RICH^d DOBBS SPAIGHT

Frans. Hawks. P Sect.

INDEX

A

- Act of Cession, laid before Senate, 13.
- Ague, citizens of New Bern suffer from, 316.
- Alderson, John, criticises Hugh Williamson, 121-122; identified, 121*n*.181; letter from, 121.
- Algerines, United States fails to secure treaty with, 372-373.
- Allen, John, is candidate for General Assembly, 274; letter from, 457.
- Allen & Lewis, make land entries, 365-366; mentioned, 365-366.
- Alligator River, located, 538*n*. 51.
- Allison, David, accused of duplicity, 481, 589; agrees to pay purchase money of land in North Carolina, 390-391; answers complaints, 444-445, 460-462; asks help in raising money, 391; at Blount Hall, 419; discusses actions of Congress, 383-384; discusses conditions in Europe, 383-384; discusses land deals, 567-568, 598-600, 603-604, 610-612; gives instructions, 542-543, 619; has difficulties in speculations, 603-604; has trouble collecting money, 493-494; involved in Governor Blount's affairs, 218-219; is ill, 421-422, 426, 427-428, 429-430, 436, 454, 459-460, 471, 473-474, 496, 509, 515, 528; letter from, 377, 383, 386, 390, 391, 399, 412, 427, 429, 435, 438, 443, 444, 452, 459, 460, 473, 476, 493, 497, 516, 527, 541, 552, 556, 567, 598, 602, 610, 612, 619; lists land in North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, and Georgia, 497-500; mentioned, 180-181, 197-198, 218-219, 232, 260, 271, 296, 325-326, 360-363, 364-365, 373, 376, 379-380, 381, 387, 395, 396, 404, 411, 415, 416, 417, 419, 421, 421-422, 423, 424-425, 426, 431-432, 432-433, 433*n*.74, 437, 440-441, 447, 449-451, 463-464, 465-466, 471, 476, 479, 481, 483, 490, 494, 496, 504*n*.30, 506, 509, 514-516, 519, 520, 525*n*.45, 529, 532, 535, 541*n*.64, 544, 559-560, 589, 602, 617-618, 635-636; plans trip to Europe to sell certificates, 477-479; quotes prices, 439; recounts struggle to raise money, 602-604; relates business difficulties, 556-557, 610-612, 612-613; reports on conditions abroad, 459-460; reports sale of cargo, 452-453; reports on sale of notes, 476-480; reports sale of land, 474; requests instructions for land deals, 439-440; seeks means of escaping financial ruin, 428-429; sends bills and certificates, 386, 516; ships glass for capitol, 443; sketch of, 197*n*. 50; visits Blount, 395.
- Alston, Willis, announces candidacy, 490; mentioned, 480.
- American sailors, detained in France, 338-341.
- Amory, Rufus G., letter from, 172; mentioned, 189.
- Anchors, cost of, 226.
- Ann, cargo for, 56; crosses swatch without lightering, 267-268; difficulties in selling cargo of, 317-318; expected at Norfolk, 270; in Jamaica, 337; mentioned, 267-268, 270, 274, 317-318, 337.
- Apprentice, engaged by Blount, 247, 248-249; recommended to Blount, 258; 560*n*.67.
- Apthorpe, Marion, reference to, 1*n*.5.
- Aranjnes, treaty signed at, 362.
- Armistead, John, letter from, 395; requests introductions from Blount, 395.
- Armistead, William, letter from, 613; reports on market, 613-614.
- Armstrong, James, mentioned, 641-642; succeeds to office, 641-642.
- Armstrong, John, identified, 40*n*. 90; mentioned, 104.
- Arthur, Charles R., mentioned, 474.
- Ashe, John B., letter to, 3; mentioned, 142, 229, 242, 419; sketch of, 3*n*.9.
- Ashe, John Baptista, identified, 165*n*.8; letter from, 165.

Ashe, Samuel, elected governor, 613*n*.96; mentioned, 613*n*.96.
 Ashley, Warren, mentioned, 264-265, 601, 624.
 Assumption Bill, passed by Congress, 88.
 Atkinson, Benjamin, identified, 18*n*.52; letter from, 165, 166, 167, 169, 172, 249, 264-265, 274, 341, 397, 408, 492, 500, 539, 545, 600, 624; mentioned, 237, 272, 540, 575, 583, 609-610; places order with Blount, 165; reference to, 165*n*.6, 492*n*.24; reports shipment of cargo, 249, 264-265, 341-342, 408, 539, 545-546, 600, 624; requests vessels, 274, 492-493, 500-501, 624.
 Aversborough, located, 483.
 Avery, Waightstill, sends abstract, 658.

B

Bacon, price of, 317-318, 563, 576-577; speculation in, 58.
 Baker, Blake, asks help in recovering slave, 554-555; identified, 303*n*.86; letter from, 303, 352, 554; mentioned, 393, 631; plans to run for attorney general, 302-303.
 Baker, Julia, death of, 76; mentioned, 58.
 Ball, Joseph, mentioned, 441, 604.
 Ballentine Fairlie & Company, letter from, 576; current market prices, 576-577.
 Bank, national, prospects for, 160, 166.
 Bark, American, inferior, 292-293.
 Barnes, Joseph, enclosure from, 201-203.
 Barr, James, advises Blount on shipping, 272; complaint against, 129-130; describes yellow fever in Philadelphia, 305-306, 334-336; identified, 129*n*.194; letter from, 83, 272, 276, 283, 305, 334; mentioned, 129-130, 206-207, 287, 382, 395, 401, 529; reports on British-Spanish relations, 85; reports on sale of goods, 283-284; reports on sale of turpentine, 84; seeks aid in collection of debts, 276-277; sends cotton prints to Mrs. Blount, 83-84.
 Barry, John, appointed captain of frigate, 405; mentioned, 405.
 Bay River, located, 284*n*.69.
 Beacon Island, mentioned, 404, 471.
 Beans, price of, 308-309, 311-318.
 Bears, problem of, 210.
 Beaufort County election, editorial on, 648.
 Beaver, cleaned of barnacles, 267*n*.58; crew for, 296; mentioned, 267-268, 288, 296, 511, 536, 538, 578, 609-610, 629, 634; overhauled, 288; ready for launching, 211; sent for Blount family, 296; services of, requested, 538; use of, 511*n*.35.
 Beef, price of, 563.
 Bees wax, price of, 110, 201, 220, 246, 293, 308-309, 466, 511, 585-586; shipment of, 546.
 Bell [Blythell], elected to house of commons, 93.
 Bell, arrival in Jamaica reported, 551-552; crosses swatch without lightering, 267-268; feared lost, 381-383, 387-388; freight for, 297-298; insured, 272, 356; mentioned, 208, 245, 264, 267, 272, 276-277, 280-281, 293, 297-298, 356, 378, 381, 383, 387-388, 404, 551-552, 576, 600, 634.
 Bell, William, letter from, 259; requests help in settling accounts, 259.
 Beloix freres & Company, letter from, 253; list prices, 253-254; wish to trade with the Blounts, 253-254.
 Benbury, Richard, elected to General Assembly, 287; mentioned, 287.
 Benjamin Mills, located, 441*n*.79.
 Bent of Tennessee Company, seeks control of land, 371.
 Bill of health, required of all aboard vessels, 188.
 Binsford, John M., announces candidacy for Congress, 469-470; mentioned, 469-470, 492; receives votes, 492.
 Bingham, William, mentioned, 443.
 Bitts, defined, 309*n*.90.
 Blackledge, Ben, mentioned, 11, 236, 610, 631.
 Blackledge, Richard, arrives at Fayetteville, 419-420; enumerates land purchases, 434; identified, 125*n*.185; letter from, 125, 336, 419, 422, 431,

- 440, 441, 464, 494, 524, 548, 607; letter to, 490; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 18, 63, 79, 125, 134, 141-142, 145, 149, 151-152, 158-159, 160, 209, 231-232, 254, 259, 264, 316*n*.94, 333, 388, 413-414, 415, 420-421, 429, 432-433, 434, 435-436, 437, 444-445, 453, 454-455, 457-458, 461, 479, 481, 506, 508-509, 529, 530, 542, 557-558, 569, 571, 612-613, 655; offers for Senate, 259; purchases land in Cape Fear region, 420-421; reports on land purchases, 422-423, 431-432, 434, 440-441, 464-465, 524-527, 548-549, 571, 607-608; requests listing of land grants, 524; serves as agent for Blounts, 661.
- Blackledge, William, identified, 298*n*.81; mentioned, 298-299, 442-443.
- Blair, James, mentioned, 118*n*.179.
- Bland, Theodoric, death of, 61*n*.107.
- Bloodworth, Timothy, identified, 133*n*.197; mentioned, 133.
- Blount, Barbara, mentioned, 222, 237*n*.18.
- Blount, Billie, mentioned, 450.
- Blount, Blount, death of, 128; identified, 128*n*.
- Blount, Bryan, mentioned, 259*n*.50, 286; seeks election, 259, 50.
- Blount, Eliza, born, 523; mentioned, 523.
- Blount, Jacob, discusses business, 304-305, 565; elected to General Assembly, 286-287; gives election returns, 239-240; identified, 40*n*.10, 239*n*.21; letter from, 4, 20, 112, 239, 286, 304-305, 565; mentioned, 70, 92, 125, 128, 239, 359, 417-418; relates thrashing of Hamilton, 286-287; reports delivery of cargo, 239, 286-287, 565; settlement of estate of, 76*n*.127.
- Blount, Mrs. Jacob, has baby, 304-305.
- Blount, John Gray, activities in shipping illustrated, 167-168; candidate for house of commons, 648-649; challenged by John Kennedy, Jr., 337; election of, 259*n*.50; has addition to family, 154; house of, described, 483*n*.15; letter from, 73, 128, 405, 472; listed as speculator, 655; makes representation for William Blount, 641-642; meets William in Salem, 391*n*.49; mentioned, 117, 188, 199-200, 208, 234-235, 259*n*.50, 347-349, 359, 503, 525*n*.45, 648-649, 655, 656-657, 658-659, 661; plans speculation in coffee, 385, 387, 392, 394; replies to Kennedy's challenge, 341; requests insurance on the *Russell*, 99; suffers from burns, 210, 214.
- Blount, Louisa, mentioned, 125*n*.185.
- Blount, Mary, mentioned, 315.
- Blount, Mary Grainger, mentioned, 2*n*.8, 315*n*.93.
- Blount, Molsey, has daughter, 523; identified, 67*n*.119; mentioned, 119, 121, 128, 149, 262-263, 315, 316, 523; spends winter in Carolina, 315, 316.
- Blount, Patsey Baker, born, 54; mentioned, 58.
- Blount, Reading, is famous bear hunter, 210; letter from, 131; letter to, 165; marries, 365; mentioned, 70, 105, 125, 141-142, 210, 254, 269, 348, 365, 381, 394, 399, 419, 426, 447, 448, 457-458, 464, 571, 580, 595-596, 631.
- Blount, Richard, mentioned, 450.
- Blount, Sharpe, identified, 37*n*.85; marries, 365; mentioned, 337, 359, 365, 374, 417, 418-419, 455.
- Blount, Thomas, announces Washington's arrival in Halifax, 168-169; asks to be godfather, 58; chances of election considered, 229; complains of illness, 356-357, 509, 515-516, 530; converses with "Citizen" Genet, 263; describes affairs in Europe, 344-347, 351-352, 360-362, 364-365, 369-371, 372-374, 375-376, 378-380, 381-383, 387-388, 389-390, 392-393, 394-395, 401-402, 404-405, 453-455, 489-490, 495-496; describes difficulties in building lighthouse, 619-621, 635; describes loading of vessel, 154-155; dines with the President, 388; discusses land speculations, 342-343; discusses suits of William Blount, 318-319; enumerates items shipped for family, 393; explains vote on dividing State into districts, 643; expresses

political obligations, 356-357, 365, 437, 480; gives opinion on commercial matters, 66-67; gives reaction of Congress to sale of western lands, 479-480; identified, 5*n*.12; incurs displeasure of Secretary of War, 471; is pro-French in sentiment, 362; letter from, 5, 7, 32, 57, 59, 66, 73, 76, 81, 93, 113, 134, 140, 143, 145, 146, 149, 151, 154, 168, 236, 262, 301, 314, 315, 318, 329, 342, 344, 351, 354, 360, 364, 369, 372, 375, 378, 381, 387, 389, 392, 394, 401, 404, 405, 410, 417, 418, 421, 425, 432, 437, 453, 463, 466, 470, 482, 489, 495, 508, 513, 518, 528, 594, 601, 617, 619, 630, 634; letter to, 115, 123, 280, 333, 455, 510, 563, 592; mentioned, 18, 30, 42, 54, 70, 99, 104, 117, 125, 132, 144, 145, 156, 158-159, 188, 208, 229, 242, 268, 310, 315*n*.93, 399, 403-404, 413, 456-457, 459, 475, 479, 492, 555-556, 598, 599-600, 619; promises ship berth to young friend, 425-426; protests division of Mecklenburg County, 646-647; protests division of State into districts, 643-646; purchases lots in Raleigh, 376; receives votes, 492; recommends Dr. Hall, 342-343; reported ill, 500; reports on activities of Congress, 354-357, 360-362, 364-365, 369-371, 372-374, 375-377, 378-380, 381-383, 387-388, 389-390, 392-393, 394-395, 401-402, 404-405, 495-496, 515, 617-618, 631; reports on business, 59, 236, 262-263, 301-302, 318-319, 329-331, 360-362, 410-411, 432-433, 437, 453-455, 463-464, 466-470, 482, 508-509, 513-516, 518-519, 528-530, 617-618, 630-631, 634-635; reports on corn speculation, 58; reports on election returns, 93-94, 142-143; reports on North Carolina members absent from Congress, 453; reports on political situation in North Carolina, 146-148; reports shipment of corn and wheat, 93; runs for Congress, 236, 242, 480, 482, 495, 509; sends certificates to Reading Blount, 381; sends copy of law respecting stills,

422; spends time in England, 67; subpoenaed, 638-639; suffers from ague and fever, 59; suffers from rheumatism, 362, 364, 370-371, 376, 422; tells of plans, 301-302; visits Knoxville, 601; visits Virginia, 76; worries about election, 480, 482.

Blount, Thomas H., attends school in Warrenton, 393*n*.51; boards with William Falkener in Warrenton, 507-508; identified, 393*n*.51; leaves Warrenton, 608-609; letter from, 393; mentioned, 608-609.

Blount, William, account with State investigated, 639; activities in Tennessee, 131-132, 135-140, 148-149, 156, 163-164, 170-171, 174, 194-196, 212, 241, 244-245, 260, 271, 277-278, 325-326, 358-359, 368-369, 420-421, 446-447, 448-451, 523, 535-536, 594-595, 640-641; anticipates help of North Carolinians in Indian war, 212; anxious for Tennessee to become a state, 523, 536, 594; appointed governor of Territory South of the Ohio, 65*n*.111, 67; appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 93*n*.148; appoints county officers in Tennessee, 131; arrives in Philadelphia, 282-283; arrives in Tennessee, 126-128; asks John Gray to meet him in Salem, 380, 391*n*.49; asks protection of brother's claims in Kentucky, 350-351; begins duties as governor, 126-127; concerned over suits, 314-315; describes educational opportunities in Knoxville, 450; delivers message to frontier inhabitants of North Carolina, 640-641; discusses appointment as governor, 67-68; discusses business matters, 71; discusses business opportunities in western country, 520-523, 595-596; discusses distribution of land, 69; discusses suit relative to Caleb Grainger's executrix, 119-120; enters land in the name of John Gray and Thomas Blount, 89; enumerates family, 359; executor of will of Titus Ogden, 323-325; expected in Washington, 282;

- explains plans for laying out city, 534-535; expresses disappointment in missing General Martin, 312; family of, 128; gives instructions relative to certificates, 115; gives instructions relative to debt to State, 175-176; gives plans for speculation in Tennessee lands, 484-489; has difficulties in Tennessee, 235, 244-245, 271, 281-282, 325-326, 640-641; legislature has suspicions about, 637*n*.4; letter from, 33, 40, 49, 67, 88, 104, 113, 115, 116, 117, 120, 126, 131, 135, 148, 163, 170, 175, 176, 194, 197-198, 212, 271, 277-278, 282, 296, 312, 313, 323, 349, 358, 380, 396, 406, 413, 414, 416, 420, 446, 448, 458, 484, 520, 534, 593, 595; letter to, 2, 93, 128, 306; loses seat in house of commons, 647-648; makes preparation to move to Tennessee, 67-72; mentioned, 33, 92, 112, 141-142, 148, 149, 170, 192, 207-208, 218-219, 231-232, 233, 235, 237, 238, 241, 244-245, 250, 263, 269, 300-301, 316, 318, 319, 348-349, 371, 386, 387, 399-400, 473, 504, 561, 562, 569, 597, 599-600, 637*n*.2; moves from Piney Grove, 178*n*.27; pleased with Commission for Legislative Council, 421; presents bill to amend court law, 446; recommends action against Indians, 271, 315, 380, 414-415, 448; relations with Indians, 183, 194-196, 212, 221-222, 231-232, 241, 244-245, 260, 271, 277-278, 315, 325-326, 368-369, 396, 414-415, 421, 448, 640-641; reports action of legislature, 448-451, 536; reports settlement of accounts, 104-105; requests military land warrants, 534; returns to Tennessee, 315; State institutes suit against, 638-639; suffers ague, 282; suggested for governor of Ceded Territory, 61; thinks Thomas Blount should be appointed Senator, 413-414; visits the President, 117.
- Blount, Willie, letter from, 368, 446, 594; marries, 523*n*.43; mentioned, 302, 316, 319, 326, 359, 371, 421, 479, 523*n*.43; reports on affairs in Tennessee, 446-447, 594-595.
- Blount, Wilson, identified, 89*n*.145; letter to, 88; mentioned, 69-70, 104.
- Blounts, condition of cargoes criticized, 84, 84*n*.140; have ambitious plans, 73*n*.125; make contract with State, 173*n*.23; list of North Carolina lands entered for, 660; operate nail factory, 104.
- Blount College, mentioned, 450.
- Blount Hall, mentioned, 72, 76, 121, 128, 337, 359, 419.
- Borden, William, mentioned, 147-148.
- Bower anchor, described, 185*n*.42.
- Boyd, William, identified, 20*n*.57; mentioned, 20, 162.
- Bragg, Thomas, mentioned, 225.
- Brandy, price of, 466.
- Brenner, John, mentioned, 271.
- Brenner, Martin, mentioned, 271.
- Brickell, William, desires commission in army, 409; identified, 409*n*.64; letter from, 409.
- Bridge, construction of, 113-114, 152, 154-155.
- Bridport, located, 215*n*.73.
- British, seize ships, 289, 381-383.
- Brown, John, mentioned, 519; recommended, 519.
- Brown Carrick & Company, mentioned, 305-306.
- Browne, Johnny, mentioned, 147-148.
- Bryan, Edward, letter from, 247.
- Bryan, John C., candidate for General Assembly, 274.
- Bryan, William, mentioned, 647-648; retains seat in house of commons, 647-648.
- Buchanan, James, expresses appreciation, 237; letter from, 237.
- Buchanan & Robb, mentioned, 299-301; Williamson requests account from, 299-301.
- Buell, Charles, auditor for certificates, 207.
- Bullocks, price of, 308-309.
- Buncombe County, description of, 616-617; located, 616*n*.98.
- Burton, Robert, identified, 472*n*.2; mentioned, 472-473; reports Kentucky land to be sold for taxes, 472-473.
- Butter, price of, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 576-577.
- Buxton, Jarvis, is coroner, 274.

C

- Cabarrus, Stephen, defeat of, 241-242; elected to General Assembly, 287; mentioned, 4, 106, 141-142, 239, 241, 287; reference to, 1*n*.1; solicits vote for Congress, 1; wins votes, 12.
- Campbell, David, mentioned, 131, 136.
- Candidates for General Assembly, listed, 273-274, 287.
- Cargoes, report on, 46, 48, 52, 75, 87, 102, 109, 110-112, 154-155, 166-167, 172, 189, 189-190, 204-205, 215, 234, 249, 252, 257, 260, 264-265, 265, 266-267, 267-268, 276-277, 283-284, 284-285, 291-292, 292-293, 317-318, 320, 341-342, 392-393, 397, 401, 408, 451-452, 452-453, 455-456, 462-463, 509-510, 513-516, 518-519, 529-530, 540, 559-560, 565, 573, 583-585, 592-593; sale of, 25, 31, 169, 177, 234, 257-258, 261-262, 265, 276, 283-284, 291-292, 292-295, 311, 317-318, 320, 329, 335, 397, 401, 404-405, 451-452, 452-453, 455-456, 563, 573, 575.
- Carmichael, William, appointed minister to Spain, 180*n*.35; identified 235*n*.15; mentioned, 235, 401; recalled from Spain, 401.
- Carnes, Thomas P., member of congressional committee, 356; mentioned, 356, 524-527, 557-558; speculates in land, 524-527.
- Carney, John, candidate for General Assembly, 274.
- Carraway, James, letter from, 483; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 655.
- Carrick, Samuel Czar, identified, 450*n*.86; mentioned, 450.
- Carson, John, enters contract with surveyor, 656-657; furnishes security for Ragsdale, 561-562; mentioned, 561-562, 656-657; petitions governor relative to land grants, 661-663.
- Carter, Landon, becomes clerk for District of Washington, 358-359; mentioned, 127, 136-140, 358-359, 446-447.
- Carthy, Daniel, astounded at price asked for Shell Castle, 366-367; identified, 323*n*.98; letter from, 323, 366; mentioned, 5, 330-331, 383; refers to sale of Shell Castle, 32.
- Casso, Peter, answers complaint against hospitality, 631-632; letter from, 631-632; mentioned, 571.
- Caswell, Richard, mentioned, 175*n*.23, 312, 637*n*.4.
- Catawba Company, defended, 586-588; General Assembly receives resolution relative to, 586-588.
- Cathey, William, auditor for certificates, 207.
- Ceded Territory [The Territory South of the River Ohio], mentioned, 61.
- Certificate Debt of North Carolina, listed, 604-606.
- Certificate tax, discussed, 70.
- Certificate taxes, payment of, 116.
- Certificates, discussion of, 25-27, 33-34, 41-43, 53, 57, 62, 78-79, 88, 115-116, 138-140, 141-142, 145, 160, 192, 197-198, 232, 238, 278, 325, 356-357, 357-358, 360-362, 364, 391, 398, 399-400; exchange of, 28-29, 41-43, 116, 192, 412-413, explanation of, 21*n*.63; fraudulent, circulation of, 78; list of, 207, 287; listed, 64, 604-606; purchase of, 21, 23, 25, 35-36, 39, 88, 92, 152, 158-159, 197-198, 207, 356-357, 383-384, 399-400; speculation in, 28, 33, 41-43, 80, 82, 83, 84, 88, 103, 114, 115, 134-135, 139-140, 145, 157-158, 178, 192, 356-357, 360, 383-384, 398, 399-400, 476.
- Cherokees, boundary line with North Carolina discussed, 77; invited to meet Governor Blount, 163-164; meet Governor Blount, 132; relations with, 183, 194-196, 212, 231-232, 232*n*.11, 271, 315, 325-326, 348, 414-415, 448, 535-536, 640-641; treaty with, 170-171, 174.
- Chickamaugas, failure of expedition against, 232*n*.11; threat of war with, 221-222.
- Chickasaws, mentioned, 195-196, 197, 244-245, 325-326, 348, 397, 535-536, 594-595.
- Child, Francis, State comptroller, 176.

- Chisholm, John, engaged as purchasing agent, 484-489; mentioned, 458-459, 484-485, 522-523, 534-535.
- Choctaws, mentioned, 195-196, 197, 244-245, 325-326, 397.
- Clairfoyt, Charles D., defeated, 344; mentioned, 344.
- Clark, George Rogers, accepts commission in French army, 368; mentioned, 368, 369, 373, 378, 384; plans expedition against Spanish settlements, 373.
- Clifton, Peter, mentioned, 248-249.
- Coakley, Benjamin, letter from, 475, 491, 517, 614, 626, 632; mentioned, 480, 609-610; offers support, 475; reference to, 475*n*.7, 614*n*.97; reports on cargo, 626, 632-633; reports on election returns, 492; requests shipment of goods, 517, 614-615, 626, 632-633.
- Coart, Cox, describes illness, 306-309; discusses British treatment of American ships, 306-309; identified, 63*n*.121, 290*n*.76; letter from, 290, 293, 306, 311, 317; mentioned, 68-69, 310, 330-331, 337, 344, 351; quotes prices at St. Bartholomews, 306-309; reports on voyage, 290-291, 293-295, 306-309, 311, 317-318.
- Cobb, William, identified, 126; mentioned, 156, 163-164.
- Coburg, Duke of, defeated, 344; mentioned, 344.
- Coffee, price of, 52, 236, 254, 308-309, 320, 379, 401, 545, 560, 576-577, 582, 613-614; speculation in, 379, 384, 387, 392, 394, 428.
- Collins, Josiah, describes land surveys between Albemarle and Pamlico sounds, 365-366; discusses politics, 241-242; gives election returns, 241-242; identified, 54*n*.103; letter from, 241, 365, 538; mentioned, 54, 60, 94, 113, 222, 239*n*.21, 269, 336-337, 427.
- Collins, Josiah, Jr., letter from, 549; unable to supply rope, 549-550.
- Collins, Nancy, mentioned, 239*n*.21.
- Committee on Frigates, report of, 351-352, 360-362, 372-373, 375-376, 405.
- Congress, attitude of, toward Chickamaugas, 221; Committee on Post Office reports, 361-362, 364, 389; debates on assumption, 60; debates on Madison's trade resolutions, 345, 355-357, 361-362, 372-374, 375, 376; debates with closed galleries, 378-380, 384; dissension in, 84; fixes scale of Continental Bills, 57; Governor Blount criticizes, 315; passes bank bill, 166; passes bill altering national flag, 346, 362; passes bill for relief of St. Domingo refugees, 362; passes excise bill, 166; passes funding bill, 88; prohibits federal officers from holding State office simultaneously, 157*n*.221, 158-159; receives bill relative to pay of militia, 464, 467-470; receives report of Ways and Means Committee, 389, 392-393, 401-402; receives report on Person petition, 482; receives resolution allowing President to call out State militia, 382-383, 388, 389, 401-402; receives resolution authorizing President to issue Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 388; receives resolution for a navy to oppose Algerine pirates, 345-347, 355-357, 360-362, 372-374; receives resolution prohibiting commercial intercourse with Britain, 388; resolution regarding survey of western lands presented to, 235, 364, 370, 376; rift between northern and southern interests in, noted, 346; southerners attempt to move meeting place of, 72, 77; suspends resolution on Sequestration of British Debts, 387; votes resolution for amendment to Constitution, 346.
- Constable Rucker & Company, contract for sale of tobacco, 637*n*.2.
- Constitution, eleventh amendment added, 375; resolution for amendment to, voted on, 346.
- Continental certificates, issued to soldiers, 67*n*.116.
- Continental Securities, prices of, quoted, 61; value of, 73.
- Cooper, John, identified, 76*n*.126; mentioned, 76.

- Cooperage, considered inferior, 23, 23*n*.66, 530-532.
 Coopering, request for, 600.
 Coopers, services of, requested, 187.
 Cork, Ireland, merchants at, 67.
 Cork, price of, 27.
 Corn, price of, 17, 22, 31, 50, 52, 56, 59, 93, 220, 236, 239, 252, 262, 283-284, 308-309, 320, 466, 511, 518, 545, 559-560, 563, 573, 575, 576-577, 582, 585-586, 613-614, 616; shipment of, 22, 223; speculation in, 6-7, 19, 21, 46, 58, 62, 223-224, 236, 266*n*.56, 570.
 Cossa, Ezekiel, has trouble in Nassau, 255-256; identified, 152*n*.217; letter from, 152, 295; mentioned, 255-256, 257-258, 272, 280-281, 292, 310; reports on storm, 152-153; reports on voyage, 295.
 Cotton, price of, 226, 308-309, 560, 576-577; sale of, 265, 276-277.
 Counties, organization of, in Tennessee, 126-127, 131-132, 136.
 Courtney, William, mentioned, 147-148.
 Cowper, John, identified, 6*n*.17; letter from, 6.
 Cox, Thomas, sails to Edenton, 30.
 Cox, Tench, letter from, 622; letter to, 619; mentioned, 375, 602; reports on construction of lighthouses, 622; Superintendent of Light Houses, 375.
 Craig, Samuel, mentioned, 283-284.
 Crawford, Charles, candidate for house of commons, 648-649; mentioned, 259*n*.20, 286, 648-649; seeks election, 259*n*.50.
 Creecy, Samuel, elected to General Assembly, 287; mentioned, 287.
 Creeks, allies of Spain, 278; chiefs of, visit Congress, 76; mentioned, 278, 281-282, 315, 368-369, 414-415, 535-536, 594-595, 640-641; war with, imminent, 212, 315.
 Crevecoeur, St. John de, identified, 13.
 Cromwell, Alexander, mentioned, 132.
 Cumberland [Tennessee], mentioned, 127, 132, 137-140, 148-149, 156, 163-164, 194-196, 218-219, 244-245, 373, 431-432, 485-489, 522-523, 534, 534-535, 535-536, 571, 640-641.
- D
- Dalys, located, 30.
 Delafort, Blount Hawkins, mentioned, 69.
 Dale, Richard, appointed captain of frigate, 405; mentioned, 405.
 Davidson, Thomas, land entries of, questioned, 661-663; mentioned, 505-506; serves as entry taker, 505-506.
 Davie, William R., at Hillsboro court, 319; identified, 151*n*.216; letter from, 151, 512; mentioned, 29, 43, 141-142, 242, 301-302, 319, 471, 623; mentioned as candidate for Senate, 471; reference to, 512*n*.36; requests aid in selling land, 512-513.
 Dawson, John, mentioned, 132.
 Dawson, William Johnston, mentioned, 239; replaces Hugh Williamson, 239*n*.23.
 Dayton, Jonathan, identified, 382*n*.43; introduces resolution in Congress, 382; mentioned, 382.
 De Lancy, Stephen, reports incident concerning Captain Cossa, 255-256; letter from, 255.
 DeWaux, Jⁿ. B^{te}., identified, 14*n*.42; letter from, 550, 656; mentioned, 14, 122; requests naturalization certificate, 656.
 Dismal Swamp Canal, mentioned, 141*n*.203.
 Distillery, described, 85-86.
 Division of State into districts, discussed, 147-148.
 Dobson, Joseph, makes survey in Buncombe County, 658-659; mentioned, 658-659.
 Dock costs, enumerated, 216.
 Domestic debt, funding of, discussed, 72-73.
 Dominick Terry & Company, letter from, 190, 220, 223, 243, 261, 321; mentioned, 189-190; report on condition of market, 220, 223-224, 261; report truce between Algerines and Portuguese, 321; suggest return cargo, 230-231.
 Donaldson, James, is agent for Watson Stott & Company, 501; mentioned, 501, 539.

Donelson, mentioned, 417, 421, 520, 534, 536, 595-596.
 Donelson, Billy, mentioned, 595-596; promises answer, 595-596.
 Donelson, John [Colonel], identified, 520*n*.39; mentioned, 348*n*.13, 417, 421, 450, 520-523, 534, 535.
 Donelson, Stockley [Stokely], appointed to legislative council, 421*n*.68; identified, 41*n*.91, 348*n*.14; letter from, 371; makes survey, 347-348, 371*n*.32, 396, 417, 421; mentioned, 41, 347, 371, 396, 421, 450, 534, 596.
 Dorchester, Lord, accused of arousing Indians, 403-404; mentioned, 403-404.
 Douglas, William and James, letter from, 328; mentioned, 329-331; offer to load vessel with tobacco, 328.
 Dublin, Ireland, merchants at, 67.
 Duck River, located, 347*n*.12.
 Ducks, price of, 308-309.
 Dudley, William, is coroner, 274.
 Duncan, Matthew, mentioned, 323-325; serves as executor to will of Titus Ogden, 323-325.
 Duties on shipping, reported, 351-352, 355-357.

E

East-West political division, discussed, 146-148, 150, 151-152.
 Easton, James, mentioned, 186, 204-205.
 Election returns, cited, 240; poll of, 240, 241-242.
 Elections, report of committee on, 647-648.
 Ellison, Henry, mentioned, 206.
 Embargo, Congress debates on, 378-380, 392-393, 394; effects on shipping, 382, 394, 401-402.
 Emery's Town [Tennessee], mentioned as seat of government, 137-140.
 England, enters into convention with Spain, 344.
 Entry books, examination of, 41.
 Entry takers, mentioned, 440*n*.78; 505-506, 527-528, 537-538, 661-663; reference to, 116, 117, 316-317, 365-366, 390, 391, 423, 431-432, 503-504, 505-506, 537-538, 539, 561-

562, 566-567, 654-655, 658-659, 661-663.
 Evans, John, describes plans for setting up distillery, 85-87; letter from, 85, 124; wishes Blount to join him in setting up distillery, 85-87.
 Excise tax, passed by Congress, 166.
 Exports, from Ireland, 109-112.

F

Falkener, William, identified, 8*n*.24; letter from, 507, 608; reference to, 507*n*.33; requests favor, 608-609; takes Thomas H. Blount into home, 507-508; visits New Bern, 8.
 Fanega, described, 223*n*.80.
 Fanny, reports on, 206, 276.
 Farragut, George, brings letters, 413-414; identified, 121*n*.180; mentioned, 104, 121, 127, 138-140, 149, 164, 413-414, 417, 421-422, 423, 450.
 Farrall, Peter, seeks trade with Blounts, 257.
 Fayette District Grand Jury, members of, 655; names speculators, 654-655; protests against land speculation, 654-655.
 Fish, price of, 239, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 576-577, 613-614; shipment of, 20, 532.
 Fishing, prospects for, 297.
 Fitzsimmons, Thomas, mentioned 345-347; presents resolution to Congress, 345-347.
 Flag, changed by Congress, 346.
 Flax seed, price of, 110, 245, 293.
 Flint, Royal, mentioned, 5.
 Flour, price of, 84-85, 223, 226, 261, 262, 283-284, 308-309, 320, 464, 511, 544-545, 563, 569-570, 576-577, 582, 585-586, 613-614; speculation in, 544-545.
 Forbes, Edward, letter from, 108, 208, 245, 292-293; mentioned, 281; promises ship for passengers from France, 208-209; receives letter from John Gray and Thomas Blount, 73; reports on cargo, 292-293; reports on voyage of *Russell*, 108.
 Forest, Sieur de la, mentioned, 9*n*.29, 13.
 Forked Deer River, located, 182*n*.37.

Fort, Arthur, surveys land, 208.
 Fort Jefferson, located, 205*n*.56.
 Fortification of ports, discussed, 354-355, 374, 375, 378, 383, 388, 389, 395, 471.
 Foster, Anthony, mentioned, 196.
 Fowls, price of, 308-309.
 France, Blounts plan emigration from, 174*n*.21.
 Franklin, located, 207*n*.59.
 Freight rates, quoted, 320.
 French fleet, at Norfolk, 293-295.
 French ports, opened, 14, 14*n*.43.
 French Revolution, account of, 338-339; wars of, affect American shipping, 243-244, 245, 253-254, 263, 272, 277-278, 280-281, 289, 293-295, 297-298, 302-303, 306-309, 317-318, 321, 338-341, 344-347, 362*n*.23, 372, 375-376, 401-402, 456, 462-463, 482, 584-585, 649-650.
Friendship, mentioned, 306*n*.88; sails from Alexandria, 224, 225.
 Frigates, captains for, appointed, 405.
 Fulford, John, elected to Assembly, 98; mentioned, 106, 268; repairs lighter, 268.
 Furs, list of, 289.

G

Gardoqui, Diego de, identified, 9*n*.25; mentioned, 9.
 Gaskills, Thomas, mentioned, 296, 310; serves on the *Beaver*, 296.
 Gaskins, Adam, interested in lighthouse at Ocracoke, 268; mentioned, 268, 296; serves on the *Beaver*, 296.
 Gault, Samuel, mentioned, 259.
 General Assembly, called into session, 403; candidates for, 273-274, 287; gives instructions relative to grants received under Armstrong, 182-183; investigates William Blount's accounts, 639; place of meeting selected, 146-148, 150, 161; passes bills, 147-148.
General Green, springs leak, 46.
 Genet, Charles [Citizen], identified, 346*n*.8; mentioned, 263, 282, 346, 351, 364-365, 369-370, 373; recalled, 346; replaced, 364-365, 369-370; visits Hillsboro, 263.

George III, illness of, reported, 9.
 George, Marcus, has school in Warrenton, 393*n*.51; mentioned, 393.
 George Finch, Hatton, and Morgan, letter from, 501.
 Georgia, troops sent to, 68; sale of lands in, 15.
 Gerrard, Charles, explains payment of claims, 144; identified, 8*n*.21; letter from, 144, 555; mentioned, 8, 33, 59, 69, 90, 114, 116, 134, 144, 145-146, 151-152, 161, 418, 426, 437; reference to, 555*n*.65; wishes to purchase land with Thomas Blount, 555-556.
 Geese, price of, 308-309.
 Gilchrist & Barry, mentioned, 298, 451-452.
 Gillespie, James, absent from Congress, 453; mentioned, 453.
 Glasgow, James, identified, 20*n*.57; letter from, 20, 162; mentioned, 135, 348, 549, 571, 660, 663; orders articles from John Gray Blount, 162.
 Gorham, Collⁿ, letter to, 85.
 Gorham, Edward, mentioned, 546; shipment of tar consigned to, 546.
 Gorham, James, mentioned, 609-610.
 Gorham, William, letter from, 546, 573; mentioned, 574-575, 583, 629; orders tar shipped, 546; reports safe arrival, 573.
 Governor's palace lots, New Bern, memorial relative to, 651-652.
 Grainger, Caleb, suit against estate of, discussed, 119-120.
 Grainger, Mrs. Caleb, identified, 180*n*.34; is sued, 314-315; mentioned, 180-181, 184, 314-315, 450.
 Grant, James, carries map to Philadelphia, 396; identified, 396*n*.52; mentioned, 396, 413, 414-415, 416, 421, 459-460; receives instructions for selling land, 414-415.
 Gray, Thomas, mentioned, 523; moves to Tennessee, 523*n*.43.
 Gray, William, identified, 237*n*.18; mentioned, 237.
 Great Britain, conflict with Spain, predicted, 73, 84-85, 102, 128, 155-156; erects fort at Miami Rapids, 394-395; restrictions against, 355-357; war with, predicted, 386-387.

Green, John, lands of, plotted, 396; mentioned, 323-325, 396.
 Green River lands [Kentucky], to be sold for taxes, 472-473.
 Greene, James, identified, 21*n*. 62; mentioned, 21.
 Greer, Andrew, mentioned, 140.
 Grenville, Lord, concludes treaty with United States, 489-490; mentioned, 454, 489.
 Grier, John, mentioned, 249.
 Griffin, Caleb, mentioned, 249.
 Grimké, J. F., daughters of, oppose slavery, 586*n*.78; defends Catawba Company, 586-588; reference to, 586.
 Grist, Franklin, is candidate for house of commons, 648-649; mentioned, 286, 648-649.
 Ground oak bark, price of, 246.
 Grove, William Barry, absent from Congress, 453; mentioned, 453, 463-464, 617.
 Groves, William, identified, 164; letter from, 164.
 Guadalupe, calls on Congress for aid, 361-362, 379.
 Guion, Isaac, identified, 12; is candidate for General Assembly, 274.
 Guy, James, granted certificate, 207.

H

Hagar's Town Gazette, mentioned, 358-359.
 Halifax [North Carolina], Washington visits, 168.
 Hall, Edward, identified, 161*n*. 228; letter from, 161; mentioned, 8*n*.21; 418, 425, 480; sends ship to be cleaned, 161.
 Hall, Francis, mentioned, 425-426; promised berth in ship, 425-426.
 Hall, John, impatient for grants, 606; letter from, 402, 412, 430, 433, 606; mentioned, 342-343, 357, 376, 392, 394, 404, 411, 432-433, 433*n*.74, 437, 442-443, 454-455, 470-471, 480, 495-496, 514-516, 653; promises to pay Blount, 392; proposes land agreement, 653; recommended by Thomas Blount, 342-343; reference to, 342-343; reports blow to land speculation, 433; sells land for Blount, 402-403.
 Hall, Thomas H., mentioned, 425; son of, receives berth on ship, 425-426.

Hall & Gerrard, give instructions for cargo, 271; letter from, 271.
 Ham, price of, 563.
 Hamilton, Alexander, defends Jay Treaty, 572-574; has plans for funding debt, 19, 31, 32, 41; mentioned, 401*n*.54, 572, 574.
 Hamilton, John, identified, 233*n*. 12; mentioned, 233, 241, 286-287; thrashed by Jacob Blount, 286-287.
 Hamilton & Wilkinson, letter from, 563, 628; quote prices, 563; report shipment, 628; sell cargo, 563.
 Hammond, George, identified, 401*n*.54; influenced by Alexander Hamilton, 401*n*.54; mentioned, 401.
 Hanging Maw, complains of treatment of Indians, 212.
 Hardin, Joseph, mentioned, 132, 138-140.
 Harmon, John, mentioned, 350*n*. 17.
 Harrel, Simon, mentioned, 236; sells corn, 236.
 Harrison, John, mentioned, 631; promises to deliver letter, 631.
 Hart, Thomas, delighted with Kentucky, 521; letter to, 358, 458, 472; mentioned, 521-523; reference to, 472*n*.1.
 Harvey, Abbrington, letter from, 51; requests audit of accounts, 51.
 Harvey, Anne Blount, letter from, 407; mentioned, 76, 180*n*.34, 270, 315*n*.93, 359, 407*n*.63, 417; reports, 407-408.
 Harvey, Augustus, mentioned, 2, 2*n*.7, 3, 4, 51, 396, 417, 480, 529.
 Harvey, Mrs. Augustus, mentioned, 322, 417, 418-419.
 Harvey, John, identified, 15*n*.46; letter from, 15.
 Harvey, Lucy, marries, 365*n*.26; mentioned, 4, 4*n*.11, 180, 322, 365*n*.26, 399.
 Harvey, Reuben, mentioned, 67.
 Harvey, William, mentioned, 580.
 Hastings, William, mentioned, 370*n*.31; returns to England, 370.
 Hatteras lighthouse, approved, 375, 394.
 Hawkins, Benjamin, identified, 8*n*.22; letter from, 8, 12, 15,

- 126, 234; mentioned, 49, 73, 637*n*.2.
- Hawks County [Tennessee], organization of, 126-127.
- Hawks, John, death of, 133; identified, 133*n*.198.
- Haywood, John, defends reputation, 90-91; elected treasurer of North Carolina, 143; explains settlement of claims, 67; identified, 29*n*.75, 67*n*.117; letter from, 29, 90, 423; marries Sarah Leigh, 5*n*.13; mentioned, 114, 115, 125, 134*n*.199, 135, 143, 175-176, 356-357, 398, 412-413, 479-480, 599; orders rum, 569; seeks information on land speculation, 423-425.
- Haywood, Judge John, considers acceptance of judgeship, 303-304; identified, 303*n*.87; mentioned, 175-176, 303-304, 352-353, 353-354; wishes appointment to bench, 352-353, 353-354.
- Henderson, Richard, mentioned, 182-183, 359, 472-473.
- Henley, David, brings money to pay Tennessee militia, 449-451; mentioned, 449-451.
- Hessian fly, destroys wheat, 230.
- Hill, Billy, has land dealings with Thomas Blount, 314-315; mentioned, 314-315.
- Hodge, Abram, elected State printer, 143; mentioned, 143, 149, 303-304, 447, 509.
- Hogg, James, mentioned, 359.
- Hogg, John, letter to, 116; mentioned, 114, 115, 459-460, 463, 464, 478; reference to, 115.
- Hogs, price of, 308-309.
- Hollingsworth, Jesse, cargo shipped to, 408; mentioned, 408, 539.
- Hollowell, Ira, identified, 254; letter from, 254; reports shipment of salt, 254.
- Hollyshelter Creek, located, 548*n*.58.
- Holston, Treaty of, mentioned, 364, 374.
- Holston Settlement, discussed, 96.
- Honey, price of, 246, 254, 293, 308-309, 511, 585-586.
- Hopewell Treaty, discussed, 96.
- House of Commons, candidates for, 274.
- House of Representatives, votes on meeting place, 61.
- Houston, Hugh, identification of, 44; letter from, 44; mentioned, 48; reports safe arrival at Grenada, 44-45.
- Hubble, Samuel, sails from Alexandria, 224-225.
- Hudson, John, letter from, 540; mentioned, 236, 321-322; sells corn, 236.
- Humphreys, David, denied permission to go to Algiers, 372-373; identified, 372-373; mentioned, 372-373.
- Hunter, James, is auditor for certificates, 207.
- Hunter, William, generosity of, cited, 120.
- Hurricane, damages from, 206.

I

- Indian affairs, mentioned, 127, 136-140, 148-149, 163-164, 170-171, 174, 175*n*.23, 183, 194-196, 212, 217, 221-222, 231-232, 232*n*.11, 244-245, 260, 271, 277-278, 281-282, 315, 325-326, 368-369, 396-397, 403-404, 414-415, 416, 421, 448, 535-536, 594-595, 640-641.
- Indian treaties, Blounts participate in, 175-176.
- Indians, dangers from, 68; deprived of lands, 350*n*.17, 368-369, 535-536; hostilities with, 562; treaty with, discussed, 94-95; troubles with, 194-196, 212, 221-222, 231-232, 244-245, 260, 271, 281-282, 315, 325-326, 368-369, 396, 414-415, 421, 448, 640-641.
- Indigo, price of, 110, 283, 335.
- Insurance, for shipping, discussed, 24, 272, 387, 438-440, 455-456, 513-514, 518-519, 528-529, 552, 580, 634-635; rates quoted, 356, 406-407, 542, 580.
- Iredell, James, appointed associate judge, 15; identified, 15*n*.44, 20*n*.60; mentioned, 20.
- Iredell, Thomas, mentioned, 112.
- Iron, demand for, 206, 528, 539; price of, 560, 582.

J

- Jackson, Andrew, mentioned, 348*n*.14.
- Jackson, J. J., letter from, 541.
- Jackson, Samuel, mentioned, 197-198.

Jackson, William, mentioned, 118.
 Jamaica, prices at, quoted, 576-577.
 Jasper, James, letter from, 38; mentioned, 147-148.
 Jay, John, appointed Envoy Extraordinary to Britain, 389, 438*n*.77; criticized, 454; mentioned, 389, 438, 454, 482, 489-490, 495, 572.
 Jay Treaty, announcement of, 489-490, 495; comes into favor, 581; criticism of, 565, 570, 571-572, 574, 580, 589, 618; places naval stores on contraband list, 265*n*.54.
 Jefferson, Thomas, sends message to New Bern merchants, 649-650.
 John G. Blount & Company, plans of, 541*n*.55, 543, 553, 564-565.
 Johnson, Charles, declines to run for Congress, 1; identified, 160*n*.225, 241*n*.25; mentioned, 1, 160, 241.
 Johnson, Joshua, mentioned, 254.
 Johnston, Amos, acts as land agent, 548*n*.59; identified, 8*n*.20; letter from, 39, 87; mentioned, 8, 57, 60, 261, 272, 341-342, 397, 440-441, 540, 548-549, 570, 575, 583, 607-608, 610; reports shipment of cargo, 540; sends corn to Blount, 58; writes Blount relative to Congress, 87.
 Johnston, Samuel, mentioned, 73*n*.124, 99.
 Jones, Edward, identified, 101*n*.162; letter from, 101.
 Jones, Josiah, letter from, 286; requests support in election, 286.
 Jones, Willie, mentioned, 303-304.
 Jordan, John, mentioned, 48, 458.
 Josiah Adams & Company, fill order, 333-334; letter from, 333.
 Jourdan, Jean Baptiste, defeats Austrians, 344; mentioned, 344.

K

Kay, Richard, issues instructions for payment of invoices, 321-322; letter from, 321.

Keais, Nathan, death of, 601; identified, 10*n*.30; mentioned, 10, 59, 151, 490, 601.
 Keais, William, mentioned, 149-150, 611.
 Keefe, Patrick, mentioned, 417.
 Kennedy, John, identified, 28*n*.73; is candidate for house of commons, 648-649; mentioned, 199-200, 648-649.
 Kennedy, John, Jr., demands satisfaction, 337; letter from, 259, 337; reply to, 341.
 Kennedy, William, letter from, 199, 558; replies to editorial, 648-649; reports fight between slaves, 558; seeks aid, 199-200.
 Kentucky, description of lands in, 497-500; land in, claimed by Transylvania Company, 349*n*.16.
 Kerne, John, mentioned, 427.
 Ketland, John, complaint against, 514-516; mentioned, 514-516, 518-519.
 Ketland, Thomas and John, criticized by Thomas Blount, 529; engage ship, 438-440, 445; identified, 405*n*.62; letter to, 405; mentioned, 406-407, 410-411, 438-440, 445, 454-455, 455-456, 508-509, 529, 543.
 King, James, mentioned, 478.
 Knox, Henry, mentioned, 77, 231, 232, 244-245, 471*n*.95.
 Knoxville, description of, 447-448.

L

Lackey, James Woods, forwards survey, 396-397; mentioned, 396-397, 562.
 Lake, Richard, identified, 227*n*.3; letter from, 227, 551; mentioned, 124-125, 227*n*.3, 275, 438*n*.76, 462; offers services, 551-552; reports on cargo, 592-593; sends account, 227-228.
 Lake, William Charles, letter from, 280, 291, 297, 455, 510, 574, 583; lists prices, 511; mentioned, 227*n*.3, 275, 292-293, 438*n*.76, 508-509, 552; offers services, 280-281; reports on cargo, 291-292, 297-298, 455-456, 462-463, 574-575; reports on European market, 510-511; reports on the *Russell* and the *Tuley*, 455-456.

Lakes, dissolve partnership, 280-281.

Land, distribution of, 69; price of, 308-309, 317-318, 347-349, 402-403, 415, 416, 422-423, 444-445, 452-453, 454-455, 459-460, 466, 473-474, 485-489, 497-500, 524-527, 567-568, 576-577; purchases of, 44, 170, 302-303, 316-317, 331-332, 347-349, 357-358, 363, 377, 390, 416, 419, 422-423, 427, 429, 430-431, 434, 435-436, 439-440, 464-465, 474, 497-500, 505-506, 522-523, 525-527, 542-543, 561-562, 564-565, 567-568, 571, 595-596, 599-600, 604-606, 617-618; speculations in, 3, 28, 41-43, 65, 67, 139-140, 163-164, 174*n*.21, 197*n*.50, 207-208, 217, 226-227, 278, 282, 302-303, 316-317, 331-332, 342-343, 347-349, 349-351, 357-358, 374, 377, 383-385, 390, 396, 402-403, 412, 415, 416, 419-420, 420-421, 422-423, 423-425, 427-429, 430-431, 433, 435-436, 437, 438-440, 443-444, 444-445, 452-453, 454-455, 459-460, 460-461, 464-466, 474, 476, 477-479, 479-480, 484-489, 490-491, 495-497, 497-500, 504*n*.30, 520-523, 525-527, 534, 534-535, 535-536, 542-543, 548-549, 553, 556-557, 561-562, 564-565, 567-568, 571, 595-596, 599-600, 603-604, 606, 610-612, 617-618, 619, 630-631, 653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 661-663; surveys of, 363, 364, 365-366, 396, 457-458, 464-466, 497-500, 502-503, 505-506, 520-523, 525-527, 537-538, 548-549, 556-557, 561-562, 566-567, 595-596, 633, 656-657, 658-659.

Land act, provisions of, 217.

Land entries, discussed, 316-317, 348-349, 422-423, 424-425, 427, 440-441, 505-506, 537-538, 538-539, 561-562, 564-565, 566-567, 654-655, 658-659, 661-663.

Land grants, discussion of, 163-164, 166, 331-332, 347-349, 357-358, 363, 390, 396, 415, 416, 422-423, 435-436, 438-440, 442, 443-444, 460-462, 477, 479, 497-500, 542-543, 561-562, 595-596, 599-600,

604-606, 653, 654-655, 661-663; listed, 524, 524-525, 604-606.

Land Office Bill, mentioned, 166.

Land sale, prices from, 474, 497-500, 525-527.

Lanier, Robert, complains of Blount's Negroes, 591; letter from, 591.

Leather, price of, 273, 299.

Leeds, Zedekiah, gives opinion, 266-267.

Legislative Council [Tennessee], commissions for, 421.

Legislators, southern, attempt to move meeting place of Congress, 72.

Leigh, John, elected to house of commons, 93; identified, 141*n*.204, 336*n*.103; mentioned, 141-142, 150, 336-337.

Leigh, Sarah, marries John Haywood, 5*n*.13.

Lenoir, William, mentioned, 348-349; reference to, 348*n*.14.

Letters of Marque and Reprisal, resolution on, 388.

Lighter, function of, 179*n*.31.

Lighthouses, difficulties in building, 619-621, 622, 635.

Lignumvita, price of, 563.

Lime juice, price of, 254.

Limes, price of, 563.

Little, Penelope, marries, 365*n*.26; mentioned, 365*n*.26.

Littlejohn, Joseph B., identified, 35*n*.82.

Lloyds, insure Blount ship, 99.

Location of national capital, discussed, 77.

Locke, Matthew, identified, 42*n*.92; mentioned, 42-43.

Londonderry, mentioned, 108.

Loomis, Jonathan, identified, 62*n*.109; mentioned, 62.

Loomis & Tillinghast, letter from, 334; send invoice, 334.

Love, Eben, letter from, 560; sends boy for apprenticeship, 560*n*.67.

Love, Robert, describes Buncombe County, 616-617; elected to Senate, 597; employed to make survey, 561-562; letter from, 616; makes survey, 505-506; mentioned, 505-506, 561-562, 597.

Lumber, price of, 52, 110, 153, 232, 308-309, 317-318, 466, 576-577, 625; procurement of, 36, 203-204, 284-285.

Lumberton, located, 168*n*.14.

Lytle, William, holds military land warrants, 534, 535-536; mentioned, 534.

Mc

MacLean, Murdock, identified, 214*n*.71; letter from, 214; sends good wishes, 214.

McCabe, Bryan, complaints against, 218-219; contracts smallpox, 396; identified, 103*n*.165, 130*n*.195, 377*n*.38; mentioned, 103, 130, 145-146, 180, 218-219, 374, 377, 396; moves to Philadelphia, 377.

McDaniel, William, commands Blount vessel, 74-75; identified, 18*n*.51; letter from, 23; mentioned, 22, 108-112, 193, 194, 197; unable to purchase corn, 18.

McDowell, Joseph, absent from Congress, 453; mentioned, 453, 561.

McGillivray, Alexander, identified, 76*n*.128; makes deal with Spanish and Americans, 217*n*.75; mentioned, 92, 94, 96, 217*n*.75, 282; visits Congress, 76.

McKenny, Henry, enters contract with surveyor, 656-657; mentioned, 656-657.

McKenzie, William, identified, 16*n*.47; letter from, 16, 480.

McKim, inquires about possible shipments to Ireland or England, 185; letter from, 185.

McNarey, William, granted certificate, 207.

McNary, Alex^r., granted certificate, 207.

McNary Hugh, granted certificate, 207.

McPheil, John, mentioned, 199-200.

M

Macay [McCoy], Spruce, identified, 319*n*.95; mentioned, 319.

Mackay, James, mentioned, 200.

Macon, Nathaniel, mentioned, 471, 495.

Madison, James, mentioned, 345; offers resolutions to Congress, 345, 355-357, 361-362, 372-374, 375-376.

Madison's Resolutions, defined, 376*n*.37.

Madrid, minister to, appointed, 180-181.

Mail, contract for, 143-144, 364.

Mail route, listed, 73.

Mallett, Peter, letter from, 170, 171; reference to, 170*n*.17.

Market, condition of, 223-224, 236, 261-262, 263-265, 283-284, 286-287, 290-291, 293-295, 297-298, 306-309, 311, 317-318, 319, 320, 335-336, 378, 394, 397, 405, 407, 439, 451-452, 452-453, 464, 499-500, 510, 530, 544-545, 559, 560, 569-570, 581-582, 584-585, 615-616, 618.

Markets, search for, 169*n*.16.

Martin, Alexander, elected governor of North Carolina, 143; identified, 163*n*.1; is absent from Congress, 453; letter to, 163, 212; mentioned, 118, 143, 175-176, 453; William Blount visits, 104.

Martin, Francois Xavier, identified, 447*n*.81; mentioned, 149, 447.

Martin, Joseph, identified, 232, 312*n*.91; letter to, 312; requests copy of deed, 312-313.

Martin Expedition Certificates, mentioned, 232, 238.

Martinique, rebellion at, 123-124; trade with, 124.

Mary Ann, mentioned, 265; report on, 265.

Mattamuskeet, located, 457*n*.89.

Mayberry, Francis, mentioned, 415; receives land grant, 415.

Mayo, John, mentioned, 376.

Meade, George, mentioned, 443.

Meherrin River, navigation of, sought, 475.

Mero, district of, mentioned, 127, 136, 140, 194-196, 368.

Mero, Don Estevan, identified, 9; sends letter to western settlements, 9.

Mey, M., letter from, 14; promises to pay bills, 52.

Midget, Francis, mentioned, 266-267.

Military establishment, pay of, 466-470.

Military grants, sale of, 595-596, 599-600.

Military land warrants, speculation in, 534, 535-536.

Militia, arming of, discussed, 416; pay bill for, in Congress, 464, 467-470.

Militia claims, discussed, 65-66.

Miller, Henry, mentioned, 193.

Mills, Ben, mentioned, 441-443.

Mississippi, navigation of, discussed, 180-181.
 Mitchell, John, gives price of building stone, 615-616; letter from, 615.
 Molasses, price of, 52, 254, 283-284, 320, 466, 576-577.
 Money, exchange of, 149-150, 432-433, 439, 442-443; prevalence of, 168*n*.15; value of, 160, 236*n*.16.
 Monroe, James, appointed minister to France, 401-402; mentioned, 401-402.
 Montego Bay, located 572*n*70; needs provisions, 572-573.
 Montfort, Joseph, death of, 205.
 Montgomery, Hugh, mentioned, 148.
 Moore, Alfred, mentioned, 314-315.
 Moore, Duncan, mentioned, 43.
 Moore, James, mentioned, 170, 171-172.
 Moore, William, is coroner, 274.
 Moore County, sale of land in, 363.
 Morris, Gouverneur, assists Mountflorencia, 338-341; mentioned, 338-341, 351, 401-402, 459-460; recalled from France, 401-402.
 Morris, Robert, interested in land speculation, 342-343; loses financial position, 525*n*.45; mentioned, 197*n*.50, 226, 302-303, 342-343, 360, 390-391, 392, 400, 412, 413, 428-429, 433, 495-496, 504*n*.30, 514*n*.37, 522, 525*n*.45, 543, 589, 606, 617-618, 635; purchases land, 226-227, 360; refuses to purchase land, 433; reports on land bought, 495-496; sends surveyor, 412; speculates in land, 390-391.
 Mouche, captures Spanish brigantines, 530-531.
 Mould candles, price of, 308-309.
 Mount Vernon, description of, 118.
 Mountflorencia, James Cole, arrested, 282-283, 338-341; describes conditions in France, 338-341; letter from, 173, 179, 187, 338; letter to, 208; makes suggestions relative to shipping, 179; mentioned, 185-186, 208*n*.63, 282-283, 394; plans French emigration, 174; sketch of, 173*n*.20.
 Murdock, William, identified, 67,

263*n*.53; insures the *Russell*, 99-100; letter from, 99; mentioned, 262-263, 281, 617-618; reference to, 617*n*.101.
 Murfreesboro, located, 475*n*.9.

N

Nail rods, price of, 560, 582.
 Nails, manufacture of, 20, 20*n*.61, 210, 230, 521-523, 529, 535; shipment of, 46; sizes of, 39.
 Nash, Abner, is candidate for General Assembly, 274.
 Naval stores, declared contraband, 265; demand for, 102, 167, 172, 189-190, 221, 224, 262, 272, 283-284, 302-303, 378, 510, 530; disposal of, 262, 283-284, 317-318, 397, 451-452, 582-583; market for, 189-190, 191, 221, 224, 245, 262, 265, 272, 302-303, 378, 451-452, 452-453, 510, 530; request for, 54-55, 215-216, 221, 224-225, 270, 518; shipped, 50, 75, 83, 186, 189, 190, 258, 262.
 Neale, Abner, comments on election, 299; complains of lack of money, 298-299; identified, 12*n*.33, 37*n*.84; is candidate for election, 273-274; letter from, 37, 258, 273, 298, 550; mentioned, 69, 175-176, 205, 273*n*.65, 290-291, 353, 407, reports on cargo, 273; requests hides, 273-274; sends bill of lading, 59; wants Blount to hire apprentice, 258.
 Neale, Tom, mentioned, 442-443.
 "Negro cotton," described, 626*n*.104.
 Negroes, run away, 288.
 Nemmo, Thomas, mentioned, 172-173, 205.
 New Bern merchants, pass resolution, 649-651; receive message from Thomas Jefferson, 649-650.
 New "Bernians," at odds with East faction, 143*n*.207, 150.
 Newby, Francis, appointed to audit Blount's accounts, 51.
 Newsome, George, mentioned, 67.
 Newspapers, scarcity of, noted, 198*n*. 51.
 Nicklen, Philip, purchases turpentine, 84.
 Nicolson, George, identified, 266*n*.56; letter from, 22, 31, 46, 56, 266; letter to, 18; mentioned, 6*n*.18, 7, 78, 79, 327-

328, 390-391, 392, 400, 428-429, 443-444, 446, 514*n*.37, 543, 606, 617-618; reports arrival of ship, 46; reports on arrival of cargo, 266-267; speculates in land, 390-391.
 Nicolson, John, interested in land speculation, 342-343; mentioned, 342-343.
 Nicolson, Samuel, appointed captain of frigate, 405; mentioned, 405.
 North Carolina, accused of mismanaging finances, 39; cedes western lands, 70, 364, 374; certificates of, 57, 158-159, 360-362, 412-413, 516; court bill for, reported on, 57; description of lands of, 497-500; division into districts, discussed, 147-148, 229; finances of, mentioned, 238*n*.20; funds certificates, 145; judiciary system to be extended to, 13; militia quota of, 388, 409; opposes assumption, 61; settlement of accounts of, 65; speculation in lands of, 422, 423, 431-432, 434, 440-441, 464-465, 474, 476, 483, 490-491, 493-494, 497-500, 524, 527, 537-538, 538-539, 543, 548-549, 553, 561-562, 564-565, 566-567, 567-568, 571, 599-600, 604-606, 610-612, 617-618, 619, 630-631, 653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660, 661-663; vessels built in, 190*n*.44.
 North Carolina-Cherokee boundary, discussed, 77.
 Nutt, William, mentioned, 153.

O

Obion River, located, 240*n*.24.
 Ocracoke, map of, published, 358*n*.20; mentioned, 98*n*.156, 224-225, 246*n*.32, 268, 306-309, 354, 358*n*.20, 369, 374.
 Ocracoke Inlet, difficulties in crossing, described, 179*n*.31, 193*n*.46.
 Ocracoke Lighthouse, reported on, 268, 369, 375, 388, 404.
 Ogden, Titus, death of, 323; identification of, 323*n*.99; mentioned, 104, 114, 115, 121, 128, 133, 139-140, 323-325.
 Ogg, George, accompanies Blackledge in purchasing lands, 422-423; accuses Allison of duplicity, 481; deposition of, 637-638; gives testimony, 637-638; goes to Philadelphia, 553;

listed as speculator, 655; institutes suit against Allison, 589; interested in horse racing, 590*n*.79; letter from, 207, 217, 302, 475, 480, 589; mentioned, 135, 142, 143, 145-146, 150, 207*n*.58, 316*n*.94, 390-391, 400, 411, 417, 418-419, 422-423, 450-451, 465-466, 476*n*.10, 525*n*.45, 525-527, 542, 553, 557-558, 600, 637-638, 655; plans trip to Philadelphia, 476; reference to, 207*n*.58; reports death of Porterfield, 480-481; reports on land sales, 207-208; speculates in land, 390-391, 524-527; writes of land speculations, 217, 302-303.
 Ordinance Bill, mentioned, 146, 150.
 Orr, Alex'r. D., is member of congressional committee, 356; mentioned, 356.
 Orr, Billy, identified, 94*n*.149; mentioned, 330; suffers from ague and fever, 94.
 Otto, Bode, identified, 13; rumors about, 13.

P

Packet, mentioned, 154-155; schedule of, 66*n*.114.
 Paine, Samuel, gives opinion, 266-267.
 Palmer, Joseph, identified, 17*n*.49; letter from, 17.
 Patton, John, enters contract for survey, 656-657; mentioned, 656-657.
Patty, cargo of, 188-189.
 Peace, Isaac, mentioned, 112.
 Pearson, Thomas W., identified, 36*n*.83; letter from, 36.
 Pease, price of, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 466, 529, 576-577.
Peggy, mentioned, 266-267.
 Pendleton, Edmund, discusses survey of western lands, 235; identified, 234*n*.14; mentioned, 234-235.
 Pennock, William, identified, 320*n*.97; letter from, 320; mentioned, 257, 294; reports on cargo, 320.
 Pennsylvania, backs South in effort to move seat of government, 77.
 Person, Thomas, identified, 44*n*.93; mentioned, 44, 53, 60, 356, 364-365, 482, 637*n*.4, 648; petitions Congress, 356, 364-365, 482.

- Peseta, value of, 223*n*.79.
 Petitions, presented to legislature, 182-183.
 Philadelphia speculators, mentioned, 58.
 Philips, [Ethelred], elected to Senate, 93.
 Pickering, Timothy, mentioned, 471*n*.95; succeeds Secretary of War Knox, 471*n*.95.
 Pinckney, Charles, letter to, 170.
 Pinckney, Thomas, sends dispatches from British court, 364-365, 369-370, 373, 384.
 Pine apples, price of, 563.
 Piney Grove, William Blount moves from, 178*n*.27.
 Pinkham, Joe, loads the *Tuley*, 629; mentioned, 629.
 Pinkham, N., is member of the crew of the *Beaver*, 296; mentioned, 296, 310.
 Pirates, fears of, expressed, 321.
 Pitch, price of, 85, 110, 226, 245, 283-284, 293, 308-309, 378, 439, 466, 511, 545, 560, 575, 576-577, 582, 584, 600, 618; shipment of, 55, 177, 186-187, 221, 283-284.
 Pitch pine flooring, order for, 203-204.
 Pointe-à-Pitre, has bad times, 52.
 Polk, William, discusses survey of lands in Tennessee, 347-349; identified, 150*n*.215; letter from, 347; mentioned, 150*n*.215, 435-436, 442; reference to, 347*n*.11.
 Pollock, George, makes land entries, 538-539; mentioned, 538-539.
 Polly, sells cargo, 252.
 Pork, instructions for shipping given, 271; price of, 60, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 545, 560, 563, 613-614, 615-616, 625; shipment of, 539, 540, 544-545.
 Port-au-Prince, located, 84*n*.141.
 Porterfield, James, death of, 480-481; identified, 89*n*.144; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 89, 316*n*.94, 431-432, 441-443, 465-466, 480-481, 525*n*.45, 525-527, 542, 557-558, 655; speculates in land, 524-527.
 Porterfield, John, letter from, 557; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 316*n*.94, 465-466, 525*n*.45, 525-527, 542, 553, 655; offers land for sale, 557-558.
 Ports, closed by ice, 185*n*.40.
 Post Office, committee on, reports, 361-362, 364.
 Post Office Bill, discussed, 73.
 Potter, Colonel, mentioned, 534; purchases land in Cumberland, 534, 535-536.
 Potts & Gibbs, letter from, 530; offer services in purchase of prize cargo, 530-531.
 Prescott, J. W. G., identified, 52*n*.102; letter from, 582, 609, 624; mentioned, 52, 628; reports on vessels, 609-610, 624-625.
 Presentment of Grand Jury of the Fayette District, mentioned, 460, 463-464.
 Preston, Francis, is member of congressional committee, 356; mentioned, 356.
 Price, Jonathan, complains of land surveyors, 363; letter from, 363; makes map of North Carolina, 630-631, 633*n*.107; mentioned, 358*n*.20, 539*n*.52, 548-549, 630-631, 633*n*.107; produces map of Ocracoke, 358*n*.20.
 Prices, wholesale, quoted, 576-577.
 Princeton, located, 475*n*.8.
 Privateers, British, in West Indies, 283-284.

R

- Ragsdale, Gabriel, applies for money to pay surveyors, 520-523; elected representative, 597; enters petition at land office, 658-660; identified, 490*n*.23; letter from, 490, 503, 505, 561, 566, 597; makes contract with surveyor, 656-657; makes land entries, 503-504, 505-506; mentioned, 520-524, 525*n*.45; reports on land speculations, 490-491, 502-506; reports on land surveys, 561-562, 566-567, 597.
 Raleigh, designated as capital, 443*n*.80.
 Ramsay, John, mentioned, 450-451.
 Ramsay, Josiah, identified, 163*n*.3; mentioned, 163-164.
 Randall, Robert, accused of bribery, 635-636; mentioned, 635-636.
 Ratcliff, Harper, family of, killed by Indians, 194-196.

- Rebecca*, mentioned, 404.
 Redistricting of State, opposed, 643-646.
 Refugees, bill for relief of, 362.
Regulator, cargo of, sold, 563; mentioned, 563, 609-610, 624*n*. 103, 625, 628-629; sails, 628-629.
 Reshipment of cargo, reasons for, 341*n*.1.
 Revolutionary Army grants, speculation in, 485-489.
 Revolutionary War claims, settlement of, 65-66.
 Rhodes, Jacob, letter from, 564; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 655; reports land transactions, 564-565.
 Rhodes, James, mentioned, 234, 235, 316*n*.94, 525-527, 554.
 Rhodes, William, Jr., gives reaction to Jay Treaty in New York, 571-572; letter from, 322, 574, 579; reference to, 554*n*.64; reports on arrival in Providence, 322.
 Rice, price of, 110, 244, 308-309, 317-318, 466, 576-577, 585-586.
 Richards, William, mentioned, 393; teaches at Warrenton school, 393.
 Rickard, ———, identified, 369; has standing with the President, 369; mentioned, 369, 448, 449-451.
 Riot, in Beaufort County, 648-649.
 Roanoke River, possibility of making navigable, discussed, 244-245.
 Roberson, Charles, mentioned, 132, 135*n*.200, 138-140.
 Roberson, Elijah, disputes land grants, 595-596; identified, 135*n*.200; mentioned, 132, 135-140, 595-596.
 Roberts, James, elected to General Assembly, 287; mentioned, 287.
 Robertson, James, leads expedition against Cherokees, 448; mentioned, 414-415, 448, 450; plans to attend Assembly, 414-415.
 Robertson, Randolph, mentioned, 196.
 Robinson, William, identified, 52; letter from, 52; reports on voyage, 52.
 Romayne, Nicholas, identified, 228*n*.4; letter to, 484; mentioned, 9, 13, 228, 229, 299-301, 331-332, 534-535.
 Rope, demand for exceeds supply, 549.
 Rosin, new market for, predicted, 219; price of, 177, 206, 246, 293, 308-309, 378, 439, 466, 576-577, 582, 600.
 Ross, Henry, describes voyage, 47-49; letter from, 47; mentioned, 172-173.
 Ross, Joseph, letter from, 219; orders rosin, 219.
Royal Captain, mentioned, 172-173.
 Rush, Benjamin, identified, 332*n*. 102; mentioned, 332, 429; prescribes for David Allison, 429-430.
 Rum, price of, 48, 52, 60, 254, 283-284, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 439, 466, 545, 559-560, 576-577, 582, 600, 613-614; sale of, 194, 196, 254, 283-284; shipment of, 14, 16.
 Rumsey, James, identified, 201*n*. 52; mentioned, 201-203.
 Russell, arrives at Liverpool, 451-452, 455, 456-567; arrives safely, 529; cargo of, sold, 455-456; feared lost, 378, 382-383; insured, 356; loses crew, 326-328; mentioned, 73-76, 99-100, 108-112, 179*n*.29, 179*n*. 33, 190-191, 208-209, 263, 272, 274, 275, 276-277, 280-281, 291-292, 295, 297-298, 320, 326-328, 328, 329-331, 344-347, 351-352, 356, 378, 382-383, 401, 406-407, 408, 410-411, 451-452, 455, 456-457, 462-463, 464, 501, 508-509, 511*n*.34, 513-516, 518-519, 529-530, 550, 552, 557, 564, 567, 592-593, 599-600, 609-610, 624*n*. 103, 636; overhauled, 275; repaired, 609-610; reported at Norfolk, 274; sails from Liverpool, 508-509.
 Russell, Benjamin, identified, 32*n*.78; letter from, 32; mentioned, 290.
 Russell, Thomas, letter from, 177, 188; reports on arrival of ship, 177; reports on *Patty's* cargo, 188-189.
 Rutherford, Griffith, appointed to legislative council, 421*n*.68; mentioned, 421.
 Rutledge, John, mentioned, 245.
 Ryan, Ned, is mate on Captain Thomas Smith's ship, 627; mentioned, 627, 628-629.

S

- St. Claire, Arthur, mentioned, 195-196, 205*n*.56.
- St. Dominique, slave revolt at, 234*n*.13.
- St. Martin, located, 274.
- St. Domingo, refugees from, 362, 379.
- Salem, mentioned, 380.
- Sally, arrives, 529; mentioned, 452-453, 454-455, 460, 463, 466-467, 469-470, 470-471, 529, 537, 542; sails for Washington, 470-471; salvaged, 452-453.
- Salt, price of, 66, 71, 239, 310, 319, 466, 544-545; purchase of, 165; request for, 274, 517, 544, 583; shipment of, 93, 190, 254, 274, 544; used as ballast, 190.
- Sambre, located, 345.
- San Luca de Barrameda, located, 185*n*.41.
- Scantling, prices of, 49, 52, 234, 317-318, 576-577, 613-614.
- Schemerhorn, Peter, identified, 215*n*.72; letter from, 215, 265; mentioned, 331-332, 333, 628; reports on receipt of cargo, 215, 265.
- Schenck, John G. L., gives instructions for cargo, 541, 544; identified, 209*n*.64; letter from, 209, 544, 559, 569, 580; letter to, 541; lists prices, 560; mentioned, 276-277, 301-302, 305-306, 336, 404, 453, 454-455, 541, 543, 557, 604; reference to, 541*n*.55; reports on cargoes, 559-560, 569-570, 580; requests shipment of pork, 209.
- Scott, John, mentioned, 136.
- Sea captains, integrity of, noted, 173*n*.19.
- Seagroves, James, identified, 368*n*.29; mentioned, 368-369; reports on Indian treaty, 368.
- Seamen, wages of, quoted, 327.
- Seaton, William W., reference to, 603*n*.91.
- Selby, Henry, letter from, 547; requests cargo of the *Tuley*, 547-548.
- Senate, agrees to assume states' debts, 80, 82-83; alters bill for funding domestic debt, 72.
- Senate [State], candidates for, 274.
- Sequestration of British Debts, resolution on, 379, 387, 392-393.
- Sevier, John, appointed to legislative council, 421*n*.68; letter to, 271; mentioned, 127, 136, 140, 149, 421, 449-451.
- Sevier, Valentine, mentioned, 132, 138-140.
- Sexton, Isaac, buys land from Blount and Spaight, 579; mentioned, 579.
- Shaw, William, is entry taker, 440*n*.78; mentioned, 440*n*.78.
- Sheep, price of, 308-309.
- Shell Castle, conditions at, 213; described, 596; identified, 56*n*.105; mentioned, 56, 97, 165, 166*n*.12, 179*n*.30, 179*n*.31, 213, 248-249, 267*n*.58, 268, 273, 290-291, 333, 366-367, 388, 394, 426-427, 471, 511, 578, 596; sale of, 323, 366-367; weathers gale, 578.
- Shell Island, beacon for, sought, 394.
- Sheppard, Benjamin, identified, 103*n*.166; letter from, 103; mentioned, 44, 49, 145-146, 641-642; requests nails and rum, 103-104; sells confiscated property, 641-642.
- Sheppard, John, mentioned, 314-315, 420.
- Shingles, price of, 49, 52, 234, 308-309, 466, 576-577.
- Shoemaker, David, mentioned, 225; promises tar, 54.
- Short, William, appointed minister to Spain, 401; identified, 235*n*.15; mentioned, 235, 401.
- Simpson, John, mentioned, 262, 284, 305-306, 336, 397, 480, 507-508.
- Simpson, Sam, letter to, 168.
- Siota country, mentioned, 128.
- Sitgreaves, John, appointed to federal district court, 158*n*.222; discusses election, 12; goes to Blount Hall, 42; identified, 10*n*.31; letter from, 10, 11, 129, 133, 625; mentioned, 158-159, 314-315, 419; promises to support Hugh Williamson, 11; reference to, 623*n*.102; requests support, 129.
- Skinner, William, identified, 144*n*.209; mentioned, 144, 145-146, 178.
- Skins, price of, 110, 201, 246, 254, 293, 576-577.
- Skipworth, Fulwar, describes rebellion in Martinique, 123-124; identified, 81*n*.138; letter

- from, 81, 123; mentioned, 381-382; offers services, 81.
- Slave revolt, takes place at St. Dominique, 234*n*.13.
- Slave trade, discussed, 253-254.
- Slaves, hiring of, 37-38.
- Slitting mill, proposition for, 535.
- Smith, Benjamin, letter from, 316; writes relative to land entries, 316-317.
- Smith, Frank, is candidate for General Assembly, 274.
- Smith, James, mentioned, 193.
- Smith, John, arrives at San Lucca de Barrameda, 185-186; gives report on voyage, 185-186, 189-190, 233-234, 275, 279, 326-328, 451-452, 456-457; identified, 159*n*.223; letter from, 159, 185, 189, 233, 235, 275, 279, 326, 451, 456; letter to, 350; mentioned, 98, 159, 179, 190-191, 211, 272, 280-281, 290-291, 291-292, 310, 329-331, 425-426, 462, 508-509, 518-519, 532, 592-593, 602-604; praises the *Tuley*, 509-510; recommended, 349-350; reports on market, 235-236, 275, 451-452; reports on voyage, 159.
- Smith, Oliver, letter from, 186.
- Smith, Samuel, mentioned, 590.
- Smith, Thomas, asks for pilot, 531; letter from, 564, 627; mentioned, 531, 576; ships out, 564, 627.
- Smith, William, is member of congressional committee, 356; letter from, 213; mentioned, 356, 472-473; reports on matters at Shell Castle, 213.
- Smith, William Bailey, mentioned, 350-351.
- Smuggling, Americans engage in, 255-256.
- Snow, definition of, 267*n*.59.
- Spaight, Richard Dobbs, calls meeting of Assembly, 403; criticizes Judge Haywood, 353-354; declines invitation, 426-427; letter from, 155, 210, 269, 353, 403, 426, 579; mentioned, 5, 5*n*.14, 112, 114, 155-156, 269*n*.61, 660, 663; petitions for lots in New Bern, 651-652; reference to, 155*n*.220; reports war news from Europe, 354; seeks advice, 269-270, 579; seeks relief from cold weather, 155-156.
- Spain, conflict with Britain, predicted, 73, 84-85, 102, 128, 155-156; enters into convention with England, 344; settlement of differences with, 235; violates treaty with Creeks, 278.
- Spanish settlements, relations with, 9.
- Specie, value of, 57.
- Speculation, in prize cargoes, 530-531; in Territory South of the Ohio, 485-489, 497-500.
- Speculators, displeased with North Carolina, 57; mentioned, 41-43, 53, 61, 84, 342-343, 383-384, 390-391, 396, 433, 435-436, 437, 477-479, 504*n*.30, 505*n*.31, 522-523, 525*n*.45, 535-536, 567-568, 595-596, 599-600, 654-655, 658-659.
- Spencer, Samuel, mentioned, 319*n*.96.
- Spruill, Samuel, letter from, 537; surveys land, 537-538.
- State securities, rise in value, 82-83; value of, 26, 73, 82-83, 88.
- States' debts, assumed by federal government, 80.
- Staves, price of, 49, 177, 201, 224, 246, 293, 308-309, 317-318, 451-452, 511, 560, 575, 576, 577, 584, 613-614.
- Steam mill, report on, 201-203.
- Steele, John, comments on William Blount's appointment, 77; discusses congressional matters, 77-78; identified, 77*n*.130; letter from, 77, 93; mentioned, 147-148, 336-337; protects William Blount, 93*n*.148.
- Steele, William, identified, 5*n*.15; letter from, 5; mentioned, 114.
- Stevenson, William, mentioned, 257.
- Stewart, John, identified, 30*n*.76; letter from, 30.
- Stewart, Thomas, identified, 35*n*.80; letter from, 35.
- Stokes, John, death of, 129; identified, 129*n*.193.
- Stokes, Montfort, reference to, 76*n*.129; reports visit of Creeks to Congress, 76.
- Stone, Zedekiah, letter from, 248; recommends boy for employment, 248-249.
- Storm, damages from, 578, 579, 580.

Strother, John, letter from, 502, 504, 633; makes survey, 502-503, 504-505, 633, 661; mentioned, 525-527, 549, 661; reference to, 502*n*.29.

Stuart, John, gives receipt for State tobacco, 637; mentioned, 637*n*.2.

Stuart and Barr, identified, 50; letter from, 50, 54, 55, 58, 192, 199-200, 206, 224, 230, 261, 283, 289; mentioned, 25, 83, 209, 221-222, 224, 267-268, 304-305, 310, 379, 454-455, 466, 470-471, 511, 519, 559-560; order naval stores, 224-225; recommend Liverpool merchant, 519; report arrival of vessel, 58, 206, 230, 261-262, 289; report on money situation, 192; report seizure of ship, 289; request naval stores, 54.

Sugar, price of, 52, 235, 254, 283-284, 284-285, 308-309, 320, 466, 545, 560, 576-577, 605, 613-614.

Sullivan County [Tennessee], organization of, 126-127.

Summerville, John, letter from, 597; mentioned, 593, 596; plans to open business in Raleigh, 593, 596, 597-598.

Super cargoes, discussed, 47*n*.96, 169, 582*n*.77, 624*n*.103.

Swashes, description of, 193*n*.46.

Swift Creek, located, 208*n*.61.

T

Tafia, price of, 254.

Talbot, Silas, appointed captain of frigate, 405; mentioned, 405.

Tallow, price of, 308-309.

Tar, price of, 49, 50, 54, 83, 85, 110, 177, 226, 245, 257-258, 278, 283-284, 293, 308-309, 320, 378, 451-452, 452-453, 466, 511, 542, 545, 573, 575, 576-577, 582, 584, 600, 618; shipment of, 23, 55, 83, 172, 177, 204-205, 257-258, 276-277, 283-284, 532-533, 545-546, 600.

Tatom, Absalom, identified, 28*n*.72; letter from, 28.

Tatom, Howell, becomes treasurer of Tennessee, 446; mentioned, 446.

Taylor, Parmenas, appointed to legislative council, 421*n*.68; mentioned, 421.

Teasdale, John, letter from, 200; offers services, 200.

Tennessee, map of, drawn, 40, 181.

Territory South of the Ohio, ceded, 39-40; description of, 497-500; governor for, appointed, 65*n*.111; 67, map of, published, 65*n*.112, 238*n*.19, 240, 312-313, 340; sale of lands in, 485-489, 497-500; speculations in, 485-489, 497-500.

Thomas, Abishai C., advises Blount about mail contract, 143-144; describes Knoxville, 447-448; discusses funding of public debt, 72; discusses matters in Congress, 61; discusses settlement of accounts, 251; goes to Georgia, 386; goes to Knoxville, 436, 439, 450-451; goes to London, 611-612, 618; is agent for North Carolina Revolutionary claims, 65*n*.113; is claim agent for federal government, 332*n*.101; letter from, 24, 53, 60, 72, 82, 102, 129, 143, 156, 197, 201, 205, 251, 332, 398, 447; mentioned, 21*n*.62, 141-142, 145-146, 180, 204, 230, 232, 284, 298*n*.81, 386-387, 396-397, 407, 430, 435-436, 436, 443, 450-451, 515, 589, 611-612, 618, 639; reports business news, 205; reports death of Theodoric Bland 61; reports on sale of cargoes, 102; reports on steam mill, 201; seeks office, 65; ships papers for General Assembly, 443; sketch of, 24*n*.67; tells of fever in Philadelphia, 332-333; writes postscript of letter to Benjamin Hawkins, 12, 13*n*.39.

Thornton, James, granted certificate, 207.

Tillman, Henry, mentioned, 661; pays for surveying, 661.

Tillman, John, candidate for General Assembly, 274.

Tinker, Abner, recommended as apprentice, 258.

Tinker, Stephen, mentioned, 299; sails for Philadelphia, 298-299.

Tipton, John, identified, 127*n*.189, 449*n*.83; mentioned, 127, 136, 449.

Tobacco, price of, 54, 109, 196-201, 308-309, 311, 317-318, 320, 329, 466, 511, 560, 575,

576-577; receipt for storage of, 637; sale of, 3, 5-6; shipment of, 228-229, 267-268, 299-301, 329; State trades in, 637*n*.2; storage of, 228-229.

Toomer, Henry, identified, 153*n*.218; letter from, 153; mentioned, 116, 153.

Transylvania Company, claims Kentucky lands, 349*n*.16; mentioned, 349*n*.16, 472*n*.4, 521-523.

Travers & Company, letter from, 215, 221; order naval supplies, 215-216.

Treaty of Holston, mentioned, 183*n*.38.

Truxton, Thomas, appointed captain of frigate, 405; mentioned, 405.

Tuley, advertized for charter, 604; arrival reported, 500, 508-509; arrives at Liverpool, 455, 456-457, 574-575; cargo of, requested, 547-548; chartered, 405-406, 410-411, 455; departure delayed, 518-519; has difficulty crossing bar, 634; head for, discussed, 379, 382, 395, 397, 401, 404, 410-411, 519; insurance on, settled, 528-529; insured, 438-440, 455-456; list of articles for, 547; mentioned, 379, 405-406, 438-440, 445, 451-452, 455-456, 456-457, 462-463, 464, 500, 508-510, 511*n*.34, 513-516, 518-519, 528-529, 531, 538, 540, 546, 547-548, 550, 552, 574-575, 583-585, 599-600, 604, 609-610, 611-612, 612-613, 634; reports from Liverpool, 583-585.

Tuley, Henry, builds ships, 290*n*.75; identified, 290; letter from, 290, 337, 590; mentioned, 182*n*.36, 590*n*.80; reports carpentering done, 337; requests materials for building ship, 590.

Turk's Island, located, 308*n*.89.

Turk's Island salt, described, 517*n*.38.

Turkeys, price of, 234, 308-309.

Turpentine, demand for, 50, 84, 206, 221; price of, 50, 55, 84, 85, 110, 177, 196, 201, 226, 245, 293, 308-309, 320, 378, 439, 511, 545, 560, 573, 576-577, 582, 584, 600; shipment of, 55, 75, 83, 186-187, 204-205, 545-546, 600.

Turtles, price of, 563.

Tyson, Daniel, letter from, 62; reports to Blount, 62.

U

University of North Carolina, makes petition for Tennessee lands, 182-183.

V

Varnish, price of, 439.

Vessels, overloading of, 266.

W

Wade, Vallentine, mentioned, 636.

Wallace, David, is member of crew of the *Beaver*, 296; mentioned, 296, 310, 578.

Wallace, John, discusses business matters at Shell Castle, 97-99; letter from, 97, 106, 181, 184, 194, 196, 210, 257, 267, 288, 296, 310, 511, 531, 536, 538, 578, 628, 634, 636; letter to, 540, 613; mentioned, 56, 179*n*.32, 206*n*.57, 213, 215, 224-225, 230, 243, 246, 273, 290-291, 323, 570, 624-625; reports on remodeling of Shell Castle, 106; reports to John Gray Blount, 181-182, 194-196, 210, 211, 257-258, 267-268, 288, 296, 310, 511-512, 531, 536-537, 538, 578, 628-629, 635, 636; requests materials for building house, 210-211; requests supplies, 296, 629, 635, 636; sketch of, 97*n*.152.

Wallace, Reuben, mentioned, 288, 310.

Walsh, Peter, mentioned, 191, 224.

Ward, Bryant, account with, 450-451; buys merchandise, 450-451; mentioned, 450-451; 637-638.

Warren County, located, 8*n*.23.

Warrenton certificates, mentioned, 103.

Washington, George, arrives in Halifax, 168-169; discusses southern tour, 118-119; family of, described, 118; illness of, 57; recovers from illness, 61, 61*n*.106.

Washington County, located, 96*n*.151; organization of, 126-127.

- Washington district, mentioned, 137, 358-359.
- Washington l a n d s, surveyed, 208, 217.
- Watermen, identified, 166*n*.12.
- Watts, John, identified, 231*n*.10, 448*n*.82; mentioned, 231-232, 244-245, 448; plans conference with Governor Blount, 231-232.
- Watson Stott & Company, letter from, 270; mentioned, 264-265, 501; offer cargo, 270.
- Way, H. B., letter from, 203; orders pine flooring, 203-204.
- Wayne, Anthony, leads expedition against Indians, 350*n*.17; mentioned, 350*n*.17, 395, 397, 403-404.
- Webster, James, letter from, 193, 242; mentioned, 197, 210, 548; reports on voyage, 193, 242-243.
- West, John, has land surveyed, 661; letter from, 161; mentioned, 661; reference to, 161*n*.227; requests money, 161.
- West Indies, hurricanes in, 306-309; trade with, 255-256, 271, 274, 277-278, 283-284, 286-287, 289, 290-291, 293-295, 295, 306-309, 317-318, 320, 375-376, 385*n*.40, 401-402, 570, 576-578, 583*n*.77, 624*n*.103.
- Western lands, advantages of, discussed, 73-75; discussion of, 41-42, 245, 250-251; sale of, 479-480, 484, 497-500; survey of, 364, 370, 376, 396, 427, 566-567, 595-596.
- Western territory, ceded, 65.
- Wheat, price of, 16, 22, 50-51, 93, 261, 283-284, 320, 511, 545, 560, 573, 575, 576-577, 585-586.
- Wheaton, Daniel, complies with contract, 516; located, 474*n*.5; mentioned, 474, 515, 516, 600, 655.
- Whedon, John, letter from, 284; reports on cargo, 284-285.
- Whiskey Rebellion, mentioned, 436.
- "Whiskey Tax," opposition to, 166*n*.9.
- White, Billy, mentioned, 44.
- White, James, elected member of Congress, 446; mentioned, 413-414, 446; political support of, assured, 413-414.
- White, John, mentioned, 395; plans voyage to Jamaica, 395.
- White, William, appointed to audit accounts, 51.
- Whitfield, Bryan, mentioned, 38.
- Whitney, Charles, accused of bribery, 635-636; mentioned, 635-636.
- Williams, Ben, identified, 12.
- Williams, Benjamin, is absent from Congress, 453; mentioned, 453.
- Williams, Edmond, mentioned, 138-140.
- Williams, James, mentioned, 348.
- Williams, John, mentioned, 319*n*.96.
- Williams, John Pugh, mentioned, 442, 607-608.
- Williams, Joshua, has surveying business, 562; mentioned, 562.
- Williams, William, mentioned, 329-331, 344*n*.4, 613-614; post-script from, 326-328.
- Williamson, Hugh, advises on sale of certificates, 83; appointed agent to settle claims, 65*n*.113; comes to Blount's aid, 630-631, 635; compares Russian and American barrels for tar, 532-533; complains of McCabe's actions, 218-219; complains of mix-up in tobacco shipment, 299-301; credits Blount's account for cargo, 189; criticism of, 121*n*.182, 184; describes map, 250-251, 300-301; describes land grant, 415-416; discusses arming of militia, 416; discusses certificates, 57, 78-79; discusses Indian treaty, 94-95; discusses shipment of tar, 532-533; displeased with division of State into districts, 229; endeavors to sell western lands abroad, 278; expresses disgust at North Carolina members in Congress, 232; fears members of Congress interested in speculation, 80; friendship with Blounts wavers, 95*n*.150; furnishes financial aid to Governor Blount, 221-222; gives news, 277-278; has map published, 65*n*.112; identified, 1*n*.1; in Philadelphia, 611; interested in election, 233; interested in land speculations, 226-227; letter from, 1, 21, 28, 39, 57, 62, 65, 78, 79, 80, 82, 88, 92, 94, 96, 145, 156, 158, 160, 178, 180, 182, 183, 218, 221, 226, 228, 229, 231, 237,

240, 244, 246, 247, 260, 277, 281, 299, 331, 415, 532; letter to, 188, 194; lists certificates, 64; loses State office, 157-158; makes estimate of land ceded by North Carolina, 70; makes map of Tennessee, 40; mentioned, 9, 21*n*.62, 103, 106, 112, 120, 125, 129, 130, 133, 141-142, 147-148, 149, 157-158, 160, 174, 251*n*.38, 252*n*.40, 284, 296, 298*n*.81, 360, 363, 370-371, 375, 470, 473-474, 476, 611, 630-631; reference to, 1*n*.5, 11, 77*n*.132; reports cost of printing map, 92; reports on affairs in Tennessee, 231-232; reports on certificates, 62, 92; requests information on shipment of tobacco, 228-229; requests information on western lands, 237-239, 240, 247-248, 250-251, 260; requests pilotage rates, 218-219; requests report on cargo, 260; secures promise of contract for keeping Ocracoke Inlet clear, 246; sells Blount's certificates, 79-80; suggests making North Carolina rivers navigable, 244-245; supplies material for map, 238*n*.19, 240, 247-248, 250-251, 260, 300-301, 312-313, 340; treats patient, 363; urges Blounts to attend legislature, 331-332; wishes new maps of western country, 533; wishes to buy certificates, 82.

Williamson, Mrs. Hugh, death of, 130*n*.196, 133.

Williamson, John, identified, 252*n*.40; letter from, 252; reports on sale of cargo, 252.

Willis, Andrew, mentioned, 184.

Willis, John, letter from, 168, 625; listed as speculator, 655; mentioned, 524-527, 607-608, 655; requests relinquishment of land claim, 625-626; speculates in land, 524-527; warns of attempt to sell Blount's land for taxes, 168.

Wilson, David, audits certificates, 207.

Wilson, James, commits suicide, 525*n*.45; delays purchase of land, 477; gives bond for land, 567-568; mentioned, 118, 197*n*.50, 348, 477, 483, 493-494, 499-500, 525*n*.45, 553, 567-568, 589, 599, 602, 611-612, 617-618; signs contract for land, 493-494, 499-500, 504*n*.30.

Winchester, James, appointed to legislative council, 421*n*.68; mentioned, 244-245, 421, 520-523.

Windsor, located, 248*n*.35.

Winston, Joseph, is absent from Congress, 453; mentioned, 453.

Worth, William, arrives at Boston, 177; mentioned, 188-189.

Wright, Grover, identified, 204*n*.54; letter from, 186, 204; reports on cargo, 204-205.

Wynne, Thomas, identified, 160*n*.224; letter from, 160; predicts outcome of election, 160.

Y

Yellow fever, in Philadelphia, 305-306, 332-333, 334-336; rages in New York, 580.

Young, described, 204*n*.53; mentioned, 204.

Young, John, mentioned, 211.

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